



SOCER ACTION

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RUSSIANS ARE COMING!

Cumming
Dunne's
target

By
CRAIG
MACKENZIE

• This weekend's Ricoh Dockerty Cup quarter final games, with likely winners in capitals:

SATURDAY

At Olympic Park No. 2:
MORELL FALCONS v
Green Gully at 1.15pm,
followed by PRESTON
MAKEDONIA v Frankston
Pines.

SUNDAY

At Olympic Park No. 1:
MELBOURNE CROATIA v
Croydon at 1.15pm, fol-
lowed by BRUNSWICK
JUVENTUS v Sunshine-
George Cross.

"My old club, eh? Well, there's nothing I'd like better than to knock them off."

Seconds after kicking South Melbourne Hellas out of the 1985 Ricoh Dockerty Cup last weekend, Morell Falcons coach Jimmy Dunne had started to plan for Saturday's quarter final clash with Green Gully at Olympic Park No. 2 at 1.15pm.

Dunne won the 1980 Bill Fleming Medal as the best player in the Victorian



• Former Socceroo Peter Ollerton, who scored one of the goals in Croydon's 2-1 victory over Heidelberg. Opponent John Gabrielson (left) looks on apprehensively. Picture: LES SHORROCK

State League, while starting with Green Gully as a sweeper but Saturday afternoon won't be a time for sentiment for the former Eire international defender.

Dunne, well aware of Tommy Cumming's form, probably will assign a marker to the little Gully ace and my bet is that job will go to Harry Bingham. And what a battle that will be, as Bingham is one of the most underrated players in State League. He's quick, he's brave and his close control is good as is his disposal.

Continued P.2

The USSR national team is likely to visit Australia for games against Victoria, NSW and South Australia in February-March next year.

PSV Eindhoven, the Polish national team and Borussia Moenchengladbach of West Germany are keen to visit in July.

Responsibility for tours has reverted back to the States and the ASF after having been handled by ASF Marketing Ltd and its director, Peter Sheean, for two years.

Sheean has sold his share in ASF Marketing after running three unsuccessful international tournaments.

ASF Marketing Ltd, the Australian arm of British sports promotion firm West Nally Ltd, retains TV and advertising rights for international matches here.

ASF vice-president Michael Weinstein, the chairman of the Victorian Soccer Federation, said: "We are relieved to have the international games back under our control."

He said he had spoken with Soviet officials about a visit by the USSR team.

Eindhoven, Poland and Moenchengladbach are the first to show interest in visiting Australia in July. Others are likely to join the queue and it then would depend on which would be best value for money.

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Meanwhile, SBS-TV will screen a special on the World Under 16 Championships this Saturday at 6pm. Australia reached the quarter-finals of the series, played recently in China.

The final and two semi-finals of the World Youth Championships held in the USSR will be shown at 6pm on Saturday week.

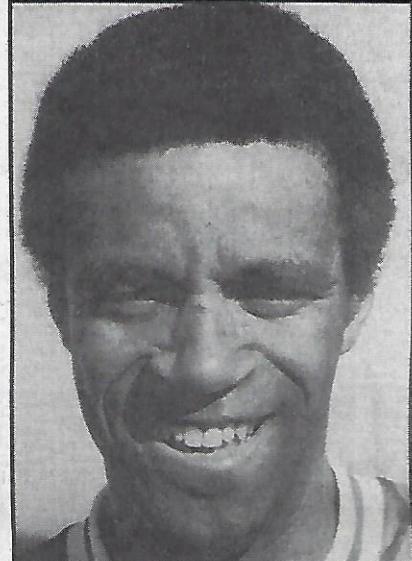
Israel game live on TV

• The Australia-Israel World Cup game will be televised live on SBS-TV from 12.25am on October 9.

The preceding hour will be taken up by "Pele - the dream of a boy." In it, Pele takes a boy born on the day Brazil won the World Cup in Mexico, back to the scene of the Brazilians' triumph, telling him about his life.

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• Tyrone James, former team mate of George Best and Bobby Moore discusses the Socceroos in this issue.

Tyrone talks

— pages 4 & 5

Kiwis will help Socceroos: Arok



ASF would back NSL decision

The Australian Soccer Federation probably will ratify any decision the National Soccer League makes about the NSL's 1986 format.

So says ASF vice-president Michael Weinstein. "If the NSL doesn't revert to 14 clubs next year, then it will do so in 1987," he said.

"They cannot survive under the present set-up."

"The only alternatives are to revert to a 14-team league, or to have a series of State super leagues, with national playoffs."

South Melbourne Hellas president Jim Diamataris meanwhile, has threatened that his club will withdraw from the NSL unless the format is changed.

He said Hellas would seek membership of the Victorian State League.

The clubs that want a 14-team league are anxious for the NSL to call a meeting as quickly as possible so a firm decision can be made.

They have the numbers to push the change through.

But the 10 clubs who would drop out, will need to give their respective State federations sufficient notice in order to be included in State Leagues for 1986.

Many of the clubs that fear they would be excluded from an elite league are threatening legal action to preserve their NSL status.

* SEE: 'CLUB BOSSSES MAKE ME SICK' — PAGE 7.

• The jubilant Socceroos after winning the Ampol Challenge Cup against China (see page 3). From left, standing: Gray, Kosminski, Thomson, O'Connor, Dunn, Greedy, Arok, Mitchell, Radcliffe, Farina, McCulloch. Front: Jennings, Watson, Crino, Murphy, Davidson, Yankos, Odzakos, Juricic, Oliver. Picture: CARLOS PICASSO.

Australia left yesterday (Tuesday) for Tel Aviv to meet Israel on October 8 in its second match of the Oceania qualifying rounds for the 1986 World Cup, having limbered up with a 3-0 victory over China in Brisbane last Friday.

"Being first in Oceania is our aim and we're going to do everything to get that spot," said Coach Frank Arok.

"I think New Zealand can take a point off Israel which will help our campaign. The Kiwis will hit everything that moves."

"I'm also quite certain that the Mt Smart ground in Auckland will be a disaster area for Israel."

"It's very hard, the grass is short and the ball bounces unusually high. Even with rain it's still bad."

"There was 20 days of constant rain before we played earlier this month and the ground was still like a rock."

Arok is confident the Australians will begin

By TED SIMMONS

to pick up their game in the remaining Oceania matches.

He expected the team to be nervous in its opening 0-0 draw against New Zealand and the 3-0 win against China but foresees a more confident performance on October 8.

"The best is in our court now to get that point from Israel in Tel Aviv and capitalise on our home advantage," he said.

"Israel has good strikers and a capable midfield but the ground, which is only used for internationals, will suit our players."

"I'm also hoping Scotland will regard Australia as an easy match."

"I can't see Scotland bringing out its strongest team to Australia because of club commitments and if we lose in Scotland, I don't think it would be by more than one goal."

"We can't lose anything if we face Scotland. We can only gain from the experience," he said.



• Ray Farrugia holds aloft Melita Eagles' trophy after the club had won the NSW grand final. See page 14.

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• Paul Wade — helped beat China last week, and now gunning for George Cross.

Juventus aims for the double

From page one

The biggest threat to Falcons is the pace of Paul Lewis and Falcons sweeper Graham Fotheringham will have to give much cover to his fellow defenders to give the Latrobe Valley side a chance of pulling off another upset.

I'm going to lay it on the line and tip Falcons in a game which could go right down to the wire.

Preston Makedonia should end Frankston Pines' fine run in the Ricoh Deckerty Cup when they clash in the second match at Olympic Park No. 2 on Saturday.

Pines haven't been able to solve their defensive problems all year although Rob Nelson, the former Sunshine star, probably is their best bet as sweeper. Nelson lined up in that position in Pines' 3-2 win over Footscray J.U.S.T. last weekend.

Warren Spink should be back from injury to add his considerable attacking flair to a Makedonia front line that already boasts Sean Lane, an Australian B international, and Gary Cole who has made 38 Socceros appearances, scoring 21 goals in the process.

However, Robbie Dunn and Ian Dobson won't be available. Dunn is in Israel with the Socceros preparing for their vital World Cup qualifying game while Dobson had an operation last week and won't play again this year.

Nevertheless, Makedonia has enough depth to cover their loss and should be no surprise for Pines.

Brunswick Juventus runs into Sunshine-George Cross at Olympic Park No. 1 on Sunday as it attempts to add the Ricoh Deckerty Cup to its national championship win a few weeks ago.

Only Mike Petersen, due to Socceros commitments, will be missing from the Juventus line-up while Don MacLaren returns from suspension and probably will take Mark Lenon's spot in the George Cross side.

With both camps almost at full strength, what a magic spectacle this could be — provided we're not treated to the Mexican stand-off which took place earlier this year when these sides clashed at Chapin Reserve.

I'm hoping that respective coaches, John Margaritis of Juventus and John Gardner of George Cross, are prepared to have a go because both sides have a lot of flair and punch up front.

Steve Richardson, attacked and bashed outside a pub in St Albans last week will be operated on this week for a depressed fracture of a cheekbone.

Tyrone James lined up at right back against Dandenong last week, then moved into a more central defensive position to mark Dennis Morovic which indicates that James could be the man given the job of shadowing Juventus striker Joe Sweeney.

Juventus will start favorite

and John Dowie, Brian Brown, Peter Lewis and Eddie Campbell should be able to shut out the George Cross strike force. This quartet could be the cornerstone of a Juventus victory.

The first match at Olympic Park No. 1 on Sunday is between Melbourne Croatia and 1985 Victorian State League champion Croydon. That game kicks off at 1.15pm and should mark Croydon's departure from the Ricoh Deckerty Cup.

But not before the underdog stretches Croatia, which will be strengthened by the return of Joso Antolovic and Davie McIntosh from suspension. Antolovic's return will release Jim Campbell to his customary midfield responsibilities. Campbell played as sweeper in Croatia's 2-0 win over East Brunswick last weekend.

One of the highlights of this game will be the clash between Croydon's Alan Livingstone and Josip Bistic of Croatia. Both players excel at going forward and provide tremendous drive for their respective teams.

Petersen tops, McDowell in fine debut

AUSTRALIA B 2 (Petersen 50th, Wade 72nd) CHINA 0 at Seiffert Oval, Monday, Sept. 23. Crowd about 3000. Referee: Richard Lorenz 8.

AUSTRALIA B: Banovic 7 (Franklin, half time); Gray 7; Carter 25th; Dunn 8; McDowell 9; McCulloch 7; Farina 9; Miranda 7 (Lee 70th); Petersen 9; Wade 7 — Arnold 7 (Kalentzis 70th); Patikas 7. Coach: John Margaritis.

Australia B team coach John Margaritis of Brunswick-Juventus employed the same tactics that won the Australian championship: a four-man midfield that closed down like lightning, and that pushed forward quickly on the flanks.

Unlike the national A team, which uses three central defenders, Margaritis used only two — Robbie Dunn and Gary McDowell. The latter was one of the stars of the match and was making his Socceros debut.

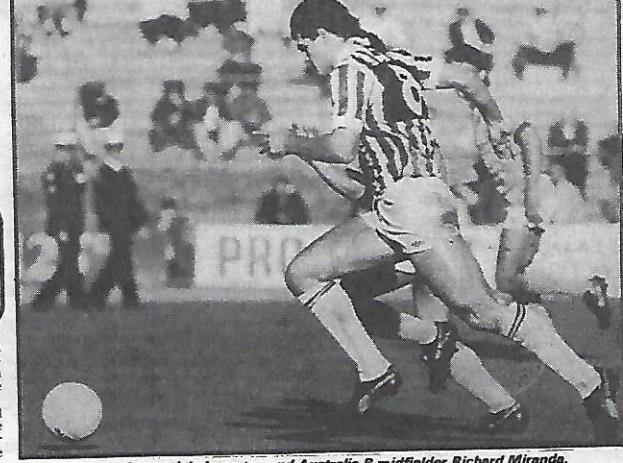
But the best on the ground was midfielder Mike Petersen who, however, continues to remain on the bench of the A team.

Frank Farina pushed forward explosively on the right side, and set up Australia's opening goal. After bursting through the Chinese defence, goalkeeper Xu could only

Man of the match:
MIKE PETERSEN
(Australia B)

parry the ball back to Farina who then crossed to the oncoming Petersen who beat a man and slipped the ball into the net.

For the second goal, Paul Wade was on hand to bury the ball after it had bounced over the head of the hapless Chinese 'keeper.



• Brunswick Juventus and Australia B midfielder Richard Miranda.

Relief for Margaritis

AUSTRALIA "B" 1 (Arnold 76th) CHINA 1 (Ma Lin 28th) at St George Stadium. Crowd: 1,530, Wednesday, Referee G. Power 8.

AUSTRALIA "B": Banovic 6 (Gibson 45th-7); — Gray 5; Dunn 8; McDowell 7; McCulloch 7 — Farina 5 (Lee 71st); Petersen 7; Miranda 6; Wade 6 (Kalentzis 53rd — 6); — Patikas 5. (Lee 70th); Arnold 6. Coach: John Margaritis.

CHINA: Jiangping 6; — Dong Ding 6; Hongqiang 7; Xuguang 8; Shengli — Wang Jun 6; Chen Dong 6; Ma Lin 8; — Huihang 6; Huagun 5; Wu Qianli 8. Coach: Nian Weisi.

China shared the spoils at St George Stadium and could only blame its own players for ineptness in front of goal. It was a game the Chinese should have won.

Much faster, with ideas to burn and strong to match, the visitors rolled the ball about the park as if it was a game of hide and seek yet the next moment the "B" internationals to some dazzling footwork.

John Margaritis, sitting next to Frank Aron on the Australian bench, was delighted, I am sure, to see this game end in a 1-1 draw.

China had an early goal disallowed over offside nine minutes into the game. China had Australia stretched far and wide before Li Huayun took a stab at it from 18 metres and deflected, decieving Banovic to rest inside the net just off the post. It was a good goal and no Chinese player was in sight to INTERFERE with play in an offside position.

The goal was cancelled, which prompted both the Chinese coach and his assistant to start a torrent of complaints that rained throughout the match.

I feel that Gary McDowell's late tackle in the fifth minute, coupled with the actions by the Chinese coach, upset the Chinese team.

Gary McDowell was in the clear a few minutes later but his shot was blocked by the keeper. Arnold took the re-



Alex Vesic

bound but the body of the Chinese custodian was in the way again.

McDowell scored moments later but this time he helped himself by pushing a Chinese player and the goal was disallowed.

The Chinese went into the lead after 28 minutes. Lu Hongxiang created some space on the left before crossing to the far post for Ma Lin to head home, with Australian defenders not to be seen.

Eight minutes later McDowell was pushed in the back by Xiuquan and Garu Power gave Australia a penalty.

Mike Petersen hit the crossbar and the chance went begging.

With 16 minutes remaining and the Chinese in control, another chance came their way. Mike Gibson spilt a back-pass and Chen Dong was in the clear but he muffed it. The ball rolled back for unmarked Li Huayun who simply put it into Gibson's hands.

The Chinese paid dearly for those misses, for only two minutes later Grant Lee put in a long service cross and Graham Arnold rose above Hongxiang to head into the top left-hand corner of the net.

Azzurri, Birkalla reach Cup final

By ALLAN CRISP

The vagaries of soccer came to the fore last Saturday when Azzurri and Birkalla qualified for this week's West End Premier Cup final.

Polonia and Beograd entered the semi-finals as short-priced favorites, but crashed to underdogs Azzurri and Birkalla.

Polonia went down 4-2 to Azzurri, while Birkalla scored a late penalty to eliminate Beograd 2-1 extra time.

Azzurri coach Joe Serafini will be faced with an embarrassment of riches for the final as midfielders Chris Manouk and Dragomir Ilicic will return after being barred from the semi-final through suspension.

Roger Zanetti and Angie Giansanti will probably be asked to make way for the more senior players, but the youngsters performed well last Saturday and are not certain to be dropped.

Birkalla boss Rab Jones has no such luxury as is expected, barring injuries, to field an unchanged line-up.

Jones displayed fine judgement in recalling young Robert Tobin and Dave Mahony to the team which struggled to a 1-1 against Beograd in the first leg semi-final.

Craig Leith and Andy Owers made way for Tobin and Mahony, even though Leith scored and Owers was an effective defender in the first game.

Birkalla goalkeeper Norm Green also has had a great season and the fate of this top eight series could rest in the safe keeping of the capable custodians.

• WEST END PREMIER CUP (semi-finals).

Birkalla 2 (Gemmell 96th, Hayes 117th, Beograd 1 (Jovanovic 100th) Azzurri 4 (F.

Michelon 23rd, DeVita 26th, 61st and 77th, Polonia 2 (Kiero 69th, Dooley 87th).

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East Germany beat Yugoslavia 2-1 (halftime 0-0) in a World Cup European Group Four Qualifier in Belgrade.

Scorers: Yugoslavia — Skoro (82nd minute). East Germany — Thors (48th and 50th).

Attendance: 40,000. Group four standings:

W 0 L 1 F 1 A 1 P 1
Bulgaria 5 1 1 2 3 11
East Germany 4 0 3 14 6 8
Yugoslavia 3 1 2 7 6 8
France 0 0 2 7 4 7
Luxembourg 0 0 2 7 2 21 0

Remaining Matches:

France v Luxembourg (October 30). France v Yugoslavia (November 18).

In TAI, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) beat Iraq 2-1 (halftime 1-0) in the second leg of their Asian Group A second round World Cup qualifying round.

UAE — Fahd Kamis (1st min), Adnan Talaani (51st). Iraq — Karim Alawi (80th).

Iraq go into the final round as the group's best team for a place in the finals on the away goals rule, having won the first leg 3-2.

• More World Cup reports, page 6.

IT'S ON!

MEXICO CITY, Guillermo Canedo, president of the World Cup organizing committee, has confirmed the competition will go ahead as planned next year despite last week's earthquakes.

World Cup organizers here have been at pains to tell the world that none of the stadiums to be used in the tournament were damaged.



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World Cup hopes are no brighter after China

AUSTRALIA 'A' 3 (Kosmina 9th, Crino 14th, Watson 63rd) CHINA 0 at Lang Park, Brisbane, Friday night. Crowd: 4,823. Referee: Bill Monteverde 9.

Kosmina 9th, Crino 14th, Watson 63rd) CHINA 0 at Lang Park, Brisbane, Friday. Crowd: 4,823. Referee: Bill Monteverde 9.

AUSTRALIA 'A': Greedy 8 (Oliver 69th) — Davidson 6, Ratcliffe 7, Yankos 7, Jennings 7 — Ozakarov 5, Watson 8 (Farino 68th), Crino 7, Murphy 7 — Mitchell 9, Kosmina 8.

CHINA: Xu Jianping 7 — Wang Gongping 6, Gao Sheng 4, Jia Xiuquan 5, Lu Hounxiang 7 — Jun Wang 5, Li Huaguan 8, Duan Ju 6, Chen Dong 5 — Ma Lin 7, Wu Qunli 4 (Wei Kexing 56th).

Free kicks: Australia 9, China 10. Corners — Australia 3, China 5. Offside: Australia 1, China 0.

The Socceroos got two hands around the Ampol Cup in beating China in Brisbane — but they are no closer to the World Cup Finals.

Although the 3-0 scoreline was comfortable, and the Socceroos dominated the match, they failed to drive home their advantage.

With much pointing towards the tough Oceania group being decided on goal difference, Australia's hopes of getting into the home-and-away tie with Scotland and the rest on how many goals we can pass the weak Taiwanese.

Israel, our opponent in Tel Aviv next Tuesday, already has slammed 11 past Taiwan in two games but Australia's — or more to the point Frank Arok's obsession with defence over the past 12 months, seemingly has left the Socceroos afraid to go forward.

Although the bumpy Lang Park ground was hardly conducive to good football, Australia had China on its knees



Ricky Rosso



Man of the match:
DAVID MITCHELL
(Australia A)

after just 14 minutes when the Socceroos led 2-0. A cricket score should have been in the making.

But the Australians were content to push the ball harmlessly around the mid-third.

Some players appeared to decide the game was over and no more effort was required. A better side than the China may have capitalised on that.

Arok rated Taiwan a poorer side than China and predicted the Socceroos would score "six or seven" when they clash with Taiwan next month.

"This was a rehearsal for the Taiwan game and after tonight we are in business. If we are purposeful, I am sure we can put six or seven away," Arok said.

The secret to playing Asian sides is to give them as little room as possible — something Lee Scheinfeld's 1983 young Socceroos learned only too late — and Arok said his side played accordingly.

"We can't match them in speed and silky touches. We had to close them down and capitalise on our strength and aerial dominance," Arok said.

And so that night, when the Socceroos decided to play, they certainly did just that.

The first two goals came through well-wooded headers by David Mitchell, who emerged as Australia's best player.

The former Adelaide boy is a much more mature and clever player for his stint

overseas and his renewed partnership with John Kosmina will undoubtedly produce many goals in the future, for Sydney-Hakohai if not Australia in the coming games.

Mitchell, along with Kosmina and Joe Watson in the second half, gave 100 percent and proved too good for the weak Chinese defence.

The Chinese had a match with a half-score when Oscar Crino, who again drifted in and out of the match, played a bad back pass to Terry Greedy. The nippy Ma Lin darted onto the loose pass but shot wide — a trait which was to become characteristic of the Chinese game throughout the match.

Australia began with just four defenders, while the Chinese played 3-3-4 when in possession but funnelled back into a 4-4-2 once they were dispossessed.

Despite the early shock of nearly conceding a goal and giving away five free kicks to one inside the first quarter of an hour, Australia began to look dangerous when it attacked along the flanks, the only area of the pitch which was playable.

It was from a right-side cross by Alan Davidson in the ninth minute that opened the scoring.

Davidson, who reportedly wore a brace to protect his injured back, knocked a fine ball into the penalty box where Mitchell rose to head to his striking partner. Unmarked Kosmina pounced on the half chance, turning and steering a right-foot shot into the far side of the goal.

The second Australian goal came just five minutes later from a Joe Watson free kick on the right. The little midfielder Mitchell rose in the air again and the big striker headed goalwards. Kosmina rose with his marker and one, or both, managed to get a nod back to the waiting Oscar Crino on the edge of the box.

Crino fired a great shot into the net, displaying a finishing that Arok can only hope all his team copies with any half chances against the Israelis.

The two-goal buffer all but sent the Chinese packing. Very classy players, were skilful midfielder Li Huaguan, left back Lo Hounxiang, and opportunistic striker Ma Lin.

The Chinese defence was extremely shaky, particularly down the centre and for 10 minutes after the second goal the Australians ran riot — albeit without scoring.

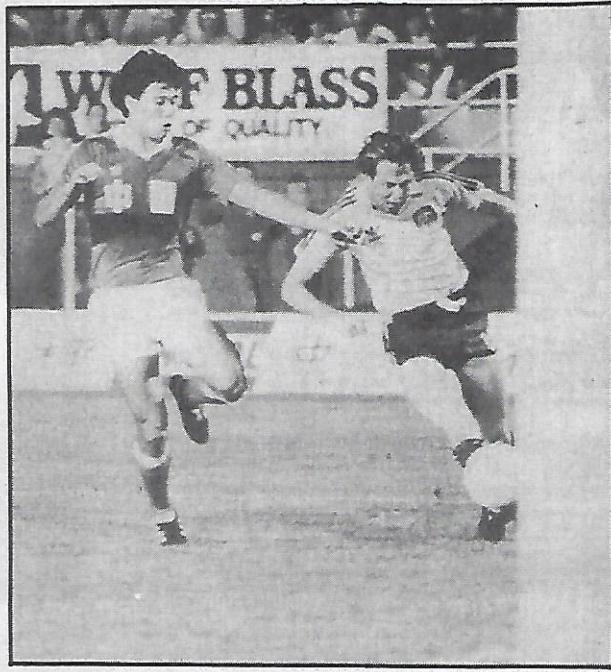
In the 16th minute Mitchell made a great run down the left, only to see his cross travel right across the goalmouth, which later Watson put a corner across the goal and Mitchell had a header fly just wide.

The small, but vocal Brisbane crowd expected a goal-packed second half when Australia led by two at the break, but the Chinese took the initiative when the second period kicked off.

They took to the wings but lacked any kind of composure once in a scoring position. Several times the pace of Ma Lin was too much for Australian defenders, with Davidson and Yankos prone to committing themselves too early.

But any Chinese revival was cut short when Watson made a fine solo run from midfield to

• Australia and China line-up before their clash at Lang Park last Friday night. Pictures: CARLOS PICASSO.



• The star of Australia's 3-0 victory, striker David Mitchell (right) is about to let fly with a firm drive.

who offered only weak resistance, and expertly slot the ball away.

With the game won, Arok gave former Queensland Frank Farina a run — for the home crowd more than anything else — and also gave Jeff Oliver another international appearance, despite Greedy's competent performance.

The Heidelberg keeper, though, was thrown immediately into a potentially dangerous situation when in the 77th minute the Chinese broke with four on three. But again Ma Lin shot wide.

Australia had a fine opportunity to add one more in the 78th when a 50m Murphy break saw him slip the ball to Mitchell, who found the line and crossed yet again to find no one in the goalmouth for the final tap-in.

Ma Lin also had several breakaway opportunities in the dying minutes, as the Australians went through the motions, but lacked the composure of a true international striker.

Although the match was far from a thriller, it was hard to criticise Arok or his team for reversing last year's defeat in Beijing.

Despite Davidson's obvious lack of fitness, Arok was pleased the former South Melbourne defender made it through the 90 minutes — although there still must be a question mark about his back holding in a testing match.

The game was very much different to the clash with New Zealand and therefore it was difficult to draw comparisons, but the midfield offered more than in the Auckland match.

"The two strikers did everything I asked and the midfield showed much more cohesion," Arok said.

"We simply overpowered the Chinese."

The Chinese contingent, obviously very upset at the poor showing, left quickly after the match.

"Australia went well but there was no team work in our side. Our mistakes were very clear for everyone to see," Chinese coach Nian Weisi said through an interpreter.

Finally, the match was a winner for Brisbane referee Bill Monteverde. It was the first of two internationals he must control before receiving his FIFA badge, and a faultless performance ensured a good report on his first big

Big changes for China

As part of an upheaval in the Chinese national side after a riot four months ago during a World Cup qualifying match in Peking, even the coaches were replaced.

New coach Nian Weisi, a former national star in the 1950s and '60s, and his assistants Gao Fengwen and Hu, picked the side from recommendations from provincial coaches two days before leaving for games in Papua New Guinea.

Only five players have been retained from the old squad: Zhu Bo, Lu Hongxiang, Li Huayun, Jia Xuquan and Chi Minghua.

"Everything is new: the players, the coaches, the style and the aims," Hu said.

"All we want from these games is experience. You can win games anywhere, but experience is the important thing for these boys."

— JAN MARTIN

Israel boss is worried

Israel coach Joseph Mirmovich is concerned about the physical tactics displayed by Australia and New Zealand in their World Cup clash in Auckland.

"The scoreless draw between Australia and New Zealand was a physical battle which didn't let the teams play properly," he said.

"Israel is not a big team but we have some strong players."

Mirmovich, who obviously was pleased with the Auckland result, was cautious about the coming match against Australia.

"It is always a big battle between Australia and New Zealand but there is not the same feeling against Israel," he said.

"There is room for improvement in both teams and Israel cannot afford to relax just because it will have the home advantage."

"Our home is our castle but we will still need more than local conditions to win."

— TED SIMMONS



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• Tyrone James's most illustrious teammates, from left: George Best, Alan Mullery, Rodney Marsh, Bobby Moore.

TYRONE JAMES

George Cross star advises: don't change Roos now!

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Tyrone James saw cause for concern in the Socceroos' performance against New Zealand in Auckland but it would be a mistake, he believes, for coach Frank Arok to change the team.

"It is too late to change the side," says the former team-mate of George Best, Bobby Moore, Alan Mullery and Rodney Marsh.

"If you do that, you get other players saying: 'Look, we went so far together, and now they've dropped him.' It's a matter now of building confidence in everyone who's in the team. It's a matter of watching videos of Israel in action, but concentrating on our own game in order to keep the confidence up. It's no good harping on about how good Israel is, or how they play."

Although James lists Jim Patikas (Sydney Croatia) as one of the best players he's seen here — certainly the most direct attacking player — he'd only have Patikas on the bench.

"Strikers work in pairs, so it's not just a matter of putting a new man in, but of breaking up a partnership," he says. "At the moment, Kosmina and Mitchell have that partnership, and the midfielders know what kind of service

to give them. There is so much more involved than simply throwing in a new man."

But James — who's impressive George Cross debut season culminated in his inclusion in "Soccer Action's" team of the year — was far from impressed with what he saw of the Socceroos on television from Auckland.

"There was no leader in the field," he says.

"Davidson has a big reputation so perhaps his absence had something to do with it, but the defence didn't seem to know what it was doing. Ratcliffe and Yankos weren't dominant enough — and instead of getting it and playing it, Yankos sent everything long. The left back, Jennings, seems to get lost when he goes forward. The midfield played too many short passes, and the full backs didn't come up in support. Up front Kosmina didn't do much. He looks like a luxury player. If the opposing sweeper stays very deep, then one of the forwards should stand right on him, or at least the forwards should go wide, to make the defenders work. Instead, they played mostly in front of the back four. If you get no joy, then why not send another man up into the midfield? New Zealand had only two strikers, after all."

For all of that however, James remains optimistic on Australia's behalf. What chance do the Socceroos have if they go all the way to the final qualifying tie, against Scotland?

"Well, the Australians would have to know what game they wanted to play, and they'd have to play it rather than just try to stop Scot-



• Tyrone James (right) Australia's No. 1 right back in his first NSL season — shadows Green Gully striker Paul Lewis.

land. Professional players think two moves ahead, so it's very hard just to go out to try to stop them. Also, the game lasts 90 minutes, so the Australians will have to pace themselves, and not try to go for the early goal. Fitness also will play its part, but if they play the right game, I think they could get a draw in Scotland."

Tyrone James, 29, ranks among the most cultured defenders in Australian soccer. He proclaimed upon his arrival from England in May that he wanted to maintain a low profile. That aspiration has gone out the window because he has emerged as a member of the elite.

The man has style. Be it as sweeper, stopper or full back, James is more than merely a hard man to beat. He has flair. He provides leadership. He passes expertly over long distances. He is fast. He is inventive. He sets up goals. He makes plays.

Soccer is but one side of his creative nature. Tyrone James is also a talented pianist. Classical music is his passion — Ludwig von Beethoven specifically.

His scrap book takes us on a journey through a topsy-turvy career from Newham Boys in schools soccer, via West Ham, Fulham and Plymouth to Sunshine-George Cross in Melbourne.

With West Ham, he won the London Youth Cup final, (junior section) against Orient.

He made his senior debut for Fulham in a 0-1 loss to Luton Town in 1976 to a 19-year-old. His was "a brilliant performance that had the crowd applauding his every move." The Fulham side was: Mellor — James, Howe, Moore, Slough — Conway, Mullery, Lloyd — Barrett, Bushy, Mitchell (Dowie).

You recognise, of course, Bobby Moore in defence, Alan Mullery in midfield and Viv Bushy up front. But what about John Dowie, the sub? He's the same John Dowie who now plays for NSL champion Juventus, as sweeper.

George Best and Rodney Marsh joined James later. But James outshone them. In headlines, he was called Tyrone The Tiger. One particularly inventive sub-editor penned the line: "It's power to Tyrone."

He was born in London of a family from Trinidad and Tobago. Hence, Trinidad tried hard to secure him in 1976 for World Cup qualifying matches but failed after Fulham stipulated that James had to be insured for \$420,000 and paid \$250 a week by the Trinidad and Tobago football association.

But he did get to play in Trinidad — as part of an all-black English side selected by coach Terry Venables, now with Barcelona. That side included, among others, Laurie Cunningham, Garth Crooks and Cyrille Regis.

James had a stint with Plymouth Argyle, and arrived in Melbourne nine games into the NSL season. It therefore was a first-class effort to be chosen in "Soccer Action's" team of the year, according to votes gained in the Boral Bricks best player award. He was listed at right back, with 33 votes, ahead of Drago Deakovic (Melbourne Croatia) and Doug Russell (SM-Hellas).

He rates Russell as a good, hard player who makes sure of making the first tackle count. He also has time for strikers Andrew Zinni (Juventus) and Stuart Stevenson (Heidelberg-Alexander) as well as Charlie Egan (Hellas) although he snuffed out Egan when George Cross met Hellas. "Egan's good in the box. He's got a reputation, so people stand off him, expecting him to do the unorthodox. It'll be interesting to see how he does without Doug Brown (on transfer). Good strikers come in pairs. Now he's got to go solo."

Like most exceptional players, it's hard to get James to praise opponents because invariably, opponents don't do much against him. "My experience helps," he says matter-of-factly. "They have to lift their game when they play against me and if they do, then I'll raise my hands and say well done. I've got nothing to prove. They have."

Still on opponents, we asked his opinion about Mike Petersen, the Juventus midfielder whose name is on the lips of everyone with an appreciation of the finer things in football. "He's got the talent," James says. "He's full of it, but I'd say he's at the crossroads. He seems to wait for other players to do the work, and if



• Jim Patikas (right) of Sydney Croatia and Australia — the most direct player James has seen here.

ENGLAND'S BLACK MAGIC SOCCER ELEVEN

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• Tyrone James (front row, second from right) was chosen by Terry Venables in an English all-black team that visited Trinidad. From left, back row: Walker, Regis, Richardson, Cunningham, Hilaire, Chiedozie, Front: Lee, James, Fisher, White, Crooks.

Gardiner:
Cross
or Gully

George Cross or Green Gully — that's the choice facing John Gardiner (pictured)

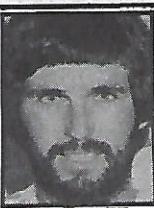
George Cross, the club he played for in the late sixties and early seventies, almost reached the finals under Gardiner this year. It finished last in 1984.

But Green Gully also wants him. He played there for two seasons, and was assistant to the then coach, Bobby McLachlan.

George Cross won a recent round-robin competition against Juventus, Heidelberg-Alexander and Footscray J.U.S.T., which raised \$1500 for Ivan Istuk who broke a leg during the last NSL round.

George Cross beat Juventus 3-0, JUST 3-0 and drew 0-0 with Alexander. George Cross and Alexander finished level on points, but George Cross had a superior goal difference.

Istuk, meanwhile, is recovering slowly. He has metal pins in his leg and, of course, is unable to work.



TYRONE'S POWER

Calypso Kid James off to Fulham flier

THE BIG MATCH

By TERRY McNEILL Luton 1 Fulham 0

TYRONE JAMES, a 10-year-old with a laughing black face had an extraordinary introduction to League football with beaten Fulham yesterday.

Have a look at the kid from the "Big Match" programme this afternoon and he'll make you overlook a game which, on paper, wasn't up to the standard you expect from these teams.

We've still waiting for a senior player to add durability and consistency to natural grace and style but Tyrone has given himself every chance of breaking down the barrier.

Normally, he plays in Bobby Moore's position in the reserves.

Yesterday, because Fulham were pushed for full-backs, he filled in there — normally, he's

away from occasionally catching his men in an offside trap with careless passes, he was faultless. His timing of tackles

was perfect, he won challenges cleanly in the air and, just as important, the occasional loughing-up he received left him unmoved.

Alan Mullery, who has seen it all, was as amazed as the rest of us. "I urged the boss to pick him," he said. "I knew he wouldn't let any boy down."

But James was better than that, wasn't he? Nothing worried him, not even when some of the crowd began to go at him. I told him to expect

that. We have no racial discrimination here and I told him that if he heard things he didn't like, not to worry — all it meant was that he was on top of his job."

Tyrone will be watching in the afternoon, and West Ham will have more than a passing interest. In the programme, they had him as an amateur and then, characteristically, fixed him up with Fulham when they had no room for him.

His happy features

were Fulham's only ray of sunshine as they lost valuable ground in the scramble for promotion. Until they find or buy a solid forward such sorely needed will be repeated.

Luton, who lost John Seasman early on with a facial injury, looked the likelier to go through, especially with Peter Anderson causing danger, and the defence solid and mean.

Up front, they also have problems — as do goals in general — testing and the goal that won it in the 27th minute from Brian Chambers, his first goal in the team, pointed the finger of suspicion at Peter Mellor.

LUTON — Barber G. Ryan (John), B. Thompson (G. Anderson), G. Phillips (G. Mitchell), G. Ryan (Jim), G. Sparrow, S. Fletcher (R), S. Chambers (G. Mitchell), G. Muller (G. Mitchell), Sub: West 6

FULHAM — Muller G. James (John), G. Muller (G. Hobson), T. Moore B. Mitchell (withdrawn), S. Connolly (G. Hobson), G. Lloyd S. Barker S. Dohr, D. Dowie

• The headline tells the story of Tyrone James' debut for Fulham. He was man of the match.



• Sunshine-George Cross, from left, standing: Noel Mitten, Tyrone James, Carl Gilder, Lou Kastner, Steve Richardson, Gerry Bennett, Ossie Latif. Front: John Campbell, Roger Bain, Jeff Faulkner, Mark Lennon, Chris Taylor, Don McLaren.

they don't, then he does it. He's got to assert himself more on the park. He's like Glenn Hoddle—great touch and vision but he's got to assert himself and he's got to come up with the work rate."

James believes George Cross can go one step further next year and qualify for the NSL finals. "We just need to score from a higher percentage of the chances we create," he says.

"The same players we have now, can do it for the club. We've got togetherness. Everyone wants to play for the team, they help each other."

He describes the NSL style as "hard, physical, but good." Referees however, should jump in earlier to discourage the rough stuff. And one particular refereeing decision, in Adelaide, still has James and every other George Cross player puzzled.

Stopper Steve Richardson was rolling the ball backwards, slowly, pursued by an opponent. When he got into the penalty area, the referee awarded Adelaide City a free kick. Time-wasting was the verdict, even though Richardson had kept the ball on the move! Adelaide City scored, and the result was a draw. The point lost would have taken George Cross into the finals.

His contract expires in October, 1986. If he stays in Australia he would be a leading candidate for the national team, in any defensive rate.

Meanwhile, he gets enjoyment and satisfaction from the game he loves.

"It's the thing I do best," he says. "This is me. I play football. When people say, 'Well done,' it's nice, but I just try as hard as I can within the context of the team. It's a buzz for

me. I'm doing something I always wanted to: playing professional soccer. I was told by coaches when I was young that I'd never do it, but I am doing it. I always want to play better than the last game."

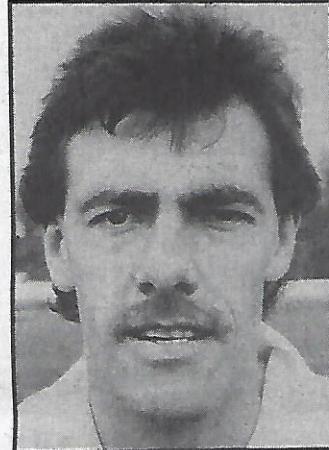
"Some players over here burn themselves out too early. That won't happen to me. They do well early, they enjoy the publicity, the partying, the late nights. They get overweight. They believe what people tell them and they eventually are not as good as they think they are."

James doesn't smoke, he drinks perhaps two glasses of wine on a special occasion. He plays squash, he jogs to supplement his training.

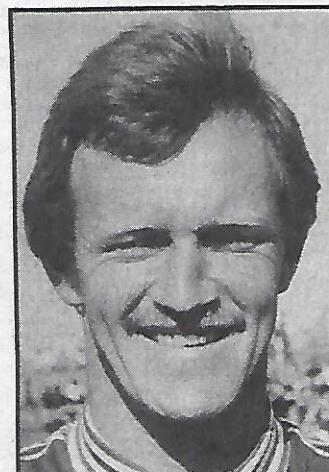
"I like my own world. I'm a quiet person," he says. "I don't socialise late into the night. It's not the way I am. I want memories from football."



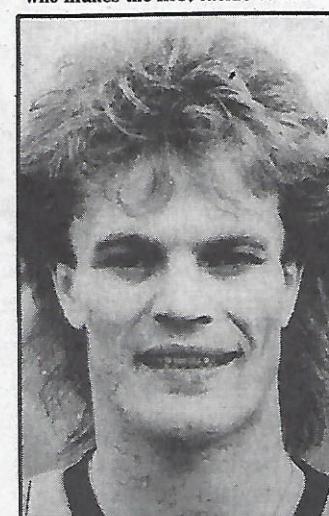
• Mike Petersen — must assert himself more.



• John Dowie — Tyrone James' team-mate at Fulham.



• Bobby Russell — tough full back who makes the first tackle count.



• Stuart Stevenson — has the admiration of Tyrone James.

Bulgaria, Spain, Germany in

AROUND
THE WORLD

LONDON, Bulgaria, Spain and West Germany took contrasting routes to Mexico last week when they escaped unscathed from potentially hazardous World Cup assignments.

The Bulgarians, one of the emerging forces of European football, qualified in style with a three-goal first-half blitz in Luxembourg; Spain came from behind to beat England 2-1 in Seville; and West Germany managed a 2-2 draw against Sweden in Stockholm.

In all, 11 nations have now been placed on the 1986 guest list. The others are Mexico, Cup holder Italy, Uruguay, Hungary, Brazil, Argentina, Poland and Canada.

Bulgaria's 29-minute goal blitz in Luxembourg — its fifth successive win after taking just one point from its opening two Group 1 games — left European champion France in an embarrassing position.

With two games remaining, the French are involved in an undignified scramble for the second qualifying place with East Germany and Yugoslavia, which may need only a draw in Paris on November 16 to send the kings of Europe out of the competition.

Spain always looked to be vulnerable against the fast-improving Icelanders. Anything less than victory would have left the last and winner of Group 7 seven and given West an unexpected reprieve with a home-and-away play-off against either Australia, New Zealand, Israel or Taiwan.

British hopes rose when Tjorboersson put Iceland ahead in the 35th minute, but Spain finally ended Wales' slender chances through Hipolito Rincon and Rafael Gordillo in the 44th and 51st minutes.

West Germany, world champion in 1954 and 1974, has never lost a qualifying game in the competition and that record was never under threat after Rudi Voeller and Matthias Herget gave the Germans a 2-0 half-time lead against Sweden.

But the Scandinavians staged a tremendous second-half revival and Dan Corneliusson and substitute Mats Magnusson, in the last minute, earned them a precious point which may yet secure Sweden the second qualifying place in Group Two ahead of Portugal and Czechoslovakia.

EUROPEAN GROUP TWO

IN PRAGUE
Czechoslovakia beat Portugal 1-0 (halftime 1-0).

Scorer: Vladimir Hruska (20th minute). Attendance: 9,000.

IN STOCKHOLM, Sweden and West Germany drew 2-2 (halftime 0-2).

Scorers: Sweden — Dan Corneliusson (63rd min), Mats Magnusson (90th). West Germany — Rudi Voeller (23rd), Matthias Herget (40th). Attendance: 39,157.

West Germany 5 1 0 20 6 11
Sweden 3 1 2 11 6 7
Portugal 3 0 3 8 8 6
Czechoslovakia 2 1 3 7 8 5
Netherlands 0 1 5 3 20 1

Remaining matches: October 12 Portugal v Malta, October 16 Czechoslovakia v Sweden, West Germany v Portugal, November 17 West Germany v Czechoslovakia, Malta v Sweden.

Group winner and runner-up qualify for finals.

GROUP THREE

IN TAMPERE, Finland beat Turkey 1-0.
Scorer: Jari Rantanen (37th minute).

Group three standings:

England 3 3 0 18 2 9
Finland 3 2 3 7 12 8
Romania 2 3 1 9 11 8
Nth Ireland 3 1 2 7 5 7
Turkey 0 1 5 1 6 1

Remaining matches: October 16 Romania v Northern Ireland, England v Turkey, November 13 England v Northern Ireland, November 14 Turkey v Romania.

Group winners and runner-up qualify for finals.

GROUP FOUR

IN LUXEMBOURG, Bulgaria beat Luxembourg 3-1 (halftime 1-1).

Scorers: Luxembourg — Rudi Langers (55th min). Bulgaria — Peter Petrov (2nd), Kostadin Kostadinov (25th), Georgi Dimitrov (32nd).

Group four standings:

Bulgaria 5 1 1 12 3 11
Yugoslavia 3 2 1 6 4 8
France 3 1 2 7 4 7
East Germany 3 0 3 12 7 6
Luxembourg 0 0 7 2 2 1 0
Bulgaria qualifies for

finals. One place to be decided.

Remaining matches: September 28 Yugoslavia v East Germany, October 30 France v Luxembourg, November 16 France v Yugoslavia, East Germany v Bulgaria.

Group winner and runner-up qualify for finals.

GROUP SIX

IN MOSCOW the Soviet Union beat Denmark 1-0 (halftime 0-0).

Scorer: Protassov. Group six standings:

Denmark 3 0 2 8 4 6
Soviet Union 2 2 2 10 8 4
Ireland 2 2 2 4 4 5
Switzerland 2 2 2 4 4 5
Norway 1 2 2 3 4

Remaining matches: October 19 Denmark v Switzerland, October 26 Norway v Denmark, Soviet Union v Ireland, October 30 Soviet Union v Norway, November 13 Switzerland v Norway, Ireland v Denmark.

Group winners and runner-up qualify for finals.

GROUP SEVEN

IN SEVILLE, Spain beat Iceland 2-1 (halftime 1-1).

Scorers: Spain — Raul Langers (55th min). Bulgaria — Peter Petrov (2nd), Kostadin Kostadinov (25th), Georgi Dimitrov (32nd).

Group seven standings:

Spain 4 0 2 8 8 8
Scotland 3 1 2 8 4 7
Wales 3 1 2 7 6 7
Iceland 1 0 5 4 10 2

Spain qualifies for finals in Mexico. Scotland plays off against Oceania group winners.

Group winners and runner-up qualify for finals.

SCOTS CAN BE DRIVEN CRAZY

From STEPHEN DETRE

The team lacks character at times.

The snapping Welsh also drove the Scots crazy, providing little time for them to create the elegant attacks for which their soccer is famed.

The Welsh tactics are similar to those of Australian coach Frank Arok, who bases his game on raw competitiveness.

There are those who consider that Israel, Australia or New Zealand have no chance against the Scots.

But soccer standards right around the world are levelling out, and a well-prepared, well-disciplined side can cause all sorts of problems against a more technically superior team.

No longer can the "old world" be considered automatically superior to the "third world".

Scotland showed in a 1-1 draw with Wales that it is far too easily hustled out of any sort of rhythm.

And of course there is that famous Scottish self-destruct streak.

In 1982 they were leading 3-0 against New Zealand in the World Cup in Spain, then allowed the Kiwis to score twice.

Scotland eventually won 5-2, but those two goals ruined their goal difference and knocked them out of the Cup.

With Stein's death has also gone his plans for the Scottish team.

The new man will undoubtedly have different ideas and methods.

If there is one thing the Scots are not relishing, it's the thought of travelling half-way around the world to play the Socceroos in the middle of an Australian summer.

GOLDEN OLDIES GET TOGETHER

California's seaside city of Santa Monica is preparing to roll out the red carpet for the 20 teams that have entered the second International Golden Oldies Soccer Festival.

From October 5 to 13 a swag of cheerfully uncompetitive players, not one of them under 35, will take to the field in a unique soccer occasion.

Teams from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the UK, the West Indies and the USA will take part in this festival which emphasises enjoyment rather than winning.

The '85 Soccer Festival follows a successful inaugural event in Australia in 1983. And in accordance with the Golden Oldies formula, the soccer will take place in alternate hemispheres every two years.

In the spirit of the golden Oldies movement, many teams respond with whacky names, for instance, the San Diego Goldamaladongdongs, the Fresno Firecrackers and Henshaw Henchmen.

A team from the West Indies calls itself Anywheres. No guesses as to where the Gold Coast Kangaroos come from.

The next festival will be held in 1987 on Australia's Gold Coast. Enquiries should be sent to:

The Organiser
Golden Oldies Soccer Festival 1986
PO Box 640051
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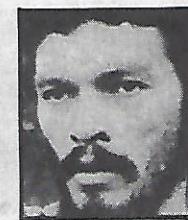
• Hans-Peter Briegel



• Vladimir Petrovic



• Mike Coady



• Socrates

Former England international Bill McGarry has taken over at ailing Wolverhampton Wanderers — the club he managed in the early 1970s, in preference to a coaching post in South Africa.

International midfielder Alain Giresse has completed 500 French League appearances for his club Bordeaux.

Verona's Hans-Peter Briegel is the new West German Footballer of the Year — the first foreign-based player to win the award in its quarter century history.

London-born Tony Cascarino, who boasts a Scottish father and Italian grandparents, has been added to the international squad of Eire — his mother's native country. Cascarino plays for English third division club Gillingham.

The "Big Two" of Greek soccer, Panathinaikos and Olympiakos, have added internationals Alejandro Hisiss (Chile) and Jorge Barrios (Uruguay) to their respective squads.

Dutch International Jan Peters has moved from Genoa to Atlanta Bergamo.

Globetrotting Yugoslav Vladimir Petrovic's latest move from Royal Antwerp to Brest.

Torino has signed international midfielder Antonio Sabato from Internazionale Milan.

Argentinos Juniors added the Argentine national champion to the First Division title earned earlier this year by beating Velez Sarsfield 2-1 in the final.

Four Series A teams — Napoli, Lecce, Bari and Avellino, were eliminated from the first round of the Italian Cup, which will be held in November until next May.

Charlton Athletic, being unable to foot the bill for legally required ground safety improvements, is to move from its famous stadium, The Valley, From October 5 it will share Selhurst Park with Crystal Palace.

Belgian international Alex Cermakian has moved from Anderlecht to Standard Liege in a \$500,000 transfer deal.

Tony Barton, who guided Aston Villa to its 1982 European Champions' Cup triumph, has been appointed assistant manager at Southampton.

Belgium and Holland have agreed on dates and venues for their World Cup qualifying round play-off games. The first leg will be in Brussels on October 16 and the return at Rotterdam five weeks later.

The \$14,000 transfer of former Sydney Olympic player Mike Coady from Wolverhampton Wanderers to Lincoln City has been declared void after Lincoln's specialist found Coady's ankle to be weak.

Dynamo Dresden sweeper and national team captain Hans-Jürgen Dörner has been named East Germany's Footballer of the Year.

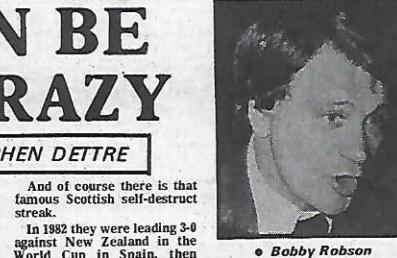
Ruch Chorzow and Poland under-23 sweeper Eugeniusz Kapinski has defected to the West while touring Switzerland with his club and will seek political asylum.

English first division club Newcastle United has appointed its former Northern Ireland international goalkeeper Willie McFaul as manager. He is to serve until the end of the current season, when his position will be reviewed.

Australians Chris Bambridge and Don Campbell will control the two New Zealand v Taiwan World Cup games next month. Bambridge is to referee the first encounter in Auckland on October 5, with Campbell acting as senior linesman. In the Christchurch return seven days later, their roles will be reversed.

Socrates' future appears to have been resolved. He has agreed terms with Flamengo and should soon be playing alongside Zico in midfield.

— PAUL MOON



Dream on, Bobby Robson!

LONDON, — forget Brazil, forget Argentina — England will win the World Cup in Mexico next year.

So says England's manager Bobby Robson, currently leading his team through its qualifying campaign.

One feels, however, that Robson's outburst is fuelled more by patriotism than any close analysis of football trends.

His statements in the British press are quite amazing for a national coach — a sign that English popularity is still alive and well.

France, Italy, West Germany and England are the four major footballing nations that I'd expect to have the greatest chance from Europe," Robson said in the London "Mirror".

That would be fine if the French actually get to Mexico — which it may not, despite being current European champion.

It currently lies third in its qualifying group behind Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, perilously close to dipping out.

And Italy and England are far from formidable forces at present.

From October 5 to 13 a swag of cheerfully uncompetitive players, not one of them under 35, will take to the field in a unique soccer occasion.

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The Organiser
Golden Oldies Soccer Festival 1986
PO Box 640051
Auckland

In the spirit of the corresponding 10 years of the individual British National teams bears out how much more effective 'British' football is when blended, rather than taken 'straight' from its constituent members.

The respective poor results in the corresponding 10 years of the individual British National teams bears out how much more effective 'British' football is when blended, rather than taken 'straight' from its constituent members.

Commenting on the signing, Cairo daily Al-Ahram said: "Egyptian football cannot take another catastrophe" and called on the federation to cancel Smith's contract.

Abdou defended Smith's managerial and coaching abilities — he has never played professionally — and said: "We must give the man a chance."

Smith takes over with Egyptian soccer on the slide. Morocco knocked Egypt out of the World Cup finals with a 2-0 aggregate win in July and Norway beat it in two recent friendlies.

Tsolakis: smallest man in the NSL

By
CRAIG
MACKENZIE

Mike Petersen, Andrew Zinni, Aki Kotzamichalis, Joe Palatsides, Mehmet Durakovic . . . and now Peter Tsolakis, who stands all of 5'2" tall — on tiptoe!

Port Melbourne produced young National League stars faster than Rudi Gundorf once produced Australian internationals.

Tsolakis probably is the smallest player in the National League. From the first moment he pulled on a Heidelberg strip he expected to be physically intimidated by opponents, but he met them head-on.

"Two Juventus players told me that they'd break my leg after I beat one of them, but that didn't worry me. That sort of talk just makes me want to try even harder and beat players again and again," said Tsolakis, who turns 20 in December.

"There are quite a few big, tough fullbacks in the National League but I'm used to being kicked. Playing in the Victorian Leagues isn't easy but you get used to guys trying to flatten you."

Tsolakis joined Heidelberg this year, the time to make his young team debut in the third league round. And when it comes to dishing it out, don't let his size fool you.

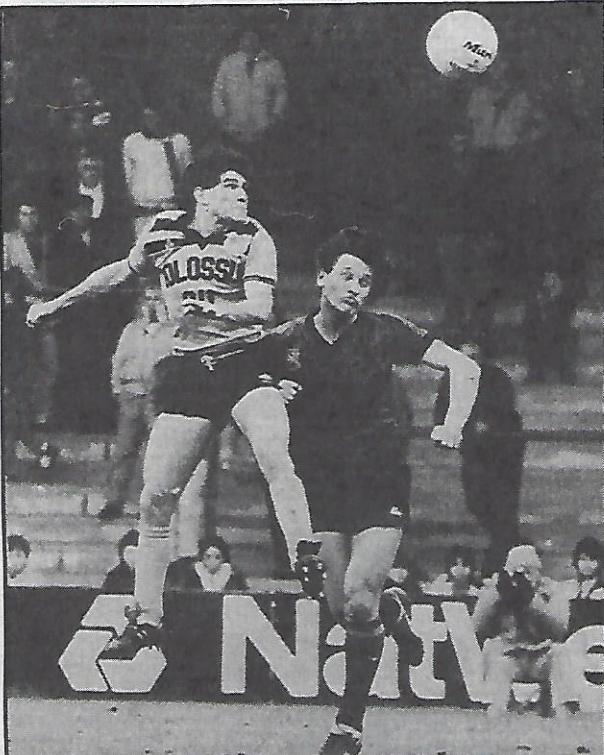
"I was sent off in my fourth game for Heidelberg. We were playing Hellas in a youth game and I got sick of being kicked by Manny (Anezakis) and the referee then pined me a few more youth team matches before being told on the Friday that I was in the side travelling to Brisbane to play. Brisbane City on the Sunday."

Tsolakis had a dream debut scoring in Heidelberg's 3-0 win. A Stuart Stevenson shot was parried by Brisbane City goalie Kim Wishart and Tsolakis ran in and planted the ball into the back of the net.

"He's gone onto the field uninvited, nervous but with encouragement from all the Heidelberg players."

"All my team mates told me before the match to go out there and just play my normal game. They were a really big help."

Tsolakis was born in Melbourne and started his soccer career with the Port Melbourne under 11s. He played in a few regional representative sides and never came for Victoria. His first senior game for Port was against Thomastown at Partridge Reserve. Thomastown won 6-0 but Tsolakis, playing as a right-sided mid-fielder, was pleased with his



• Heidelberg's Peter Tsolakis (left) soars above Makedonia's George Petrov to win this heading duel. Picture: LES SHORROCK.



• Joe Palatsides

debut and the following season established himself in the seniors.

Steve Kalgeros, now at Hellas, and Stan Hackett, now at Juventus, were the coaches who most influenced him as he rose through junior ranks.

"Steve is the guy who got me started. He taught me the basic and what a team we had. We won three or four

championships under him and a couple of JLMC Cups. Stan's good coach too. We won two championships under him. But the guy who had the greatest influence on me was Mike Petersen's dad. Hellas is just incredible. He brought most of the under 16s into the seniors and he preached skill, skill and more skill."

"I remember playing a game where the guys in the other side were getting a hiding. One of them yelled: 'Come on lads, you can't lose to this lot today. They've got to go to school tomorrow.'

So let's look at Tsolakis's view of former Port team mates who he now squares up to in the National League.

ANDREW ZINNI (Juventus). "He was our (Port's) main scorer. We'd just pump the ball up to Andrew and his speed and finishing ability did the rest."

MIKE PETERSEN (Juventus). "If he's not the best, he's certainly one of the best midfielders in Australia. We'd rip

teams apart with Mike's passing in midfield."

AKI KOTZAMICHALIS (M. Cronulla). "Nothing goes past him. He's a natural athlete. I remember playing with Aldi in the under 15s and he was the biggest player in the league even though he still was under 14!"

JOE PALATSIDES (Juventus). "He played with Andrew up front and also scored regularly. He's really good in the air and he gets a lot of penalties, because no-one does better than Joe."

MEHMET DURAKOVIC (Juventus). "Nothing goes past him. He's a natural athlete. I remember playing with Aldi in the under 15s and he was the biggest player in the league even though he still was under 14!"

"I played Australian Rules when I was 11 in the under-14 team so I was a bit small," Shillabeer said this week.

"There was a soccer team for my age group so I quit football. I chose soccer only because everyone was so much bigger than me for my age group in football and I enjoyed playing soccer more."

"It all started on a school basis and I've never looked back at football."

"Shillabeer, 22, on Sunday, joined Adelaide Juventus as an under-15 player in 1980 and under the guidance of former coach John Perin he broke into NSL ranks in 1982 and played 43 games, mostly as right back."

Perin is one of two coaches who have had the greatest influence on Shillabeer's career.

The other is former Beograd-Woodville boss Uros Zivkovic who helped Shillabeer pick up his confidence after he had been discarded by Adelaide Juventus.

Shillabeer, a clerk at the Woodville Spastic Centre, still wants to return to NSL ranks but not until after he settles in married life next year with his fiancee Christine.

"I don't want Christine to be a soccer bride early in our marriage," Shillabeer said.

Shillabeer won the Rothmans Medal with 27 votes — one vote ahead of Para Hills captain Laurie Humphreys.

"I really didn't give myself a chance to win it," he said. "Beograd has so many good players. I thought would poll well. Chris Miller, Brian Welsh and Richard Preston are exceptional players and better than State league standard. I expected them to do better than they did and take votes from me."

It may surprise some readers to learn that Tsolakis thinks that senior Third Division soccer is faster than Youth League soccer. Yet he found a much higher skill level in the Youth League.

Tsolakis isn't inhibited by his diminutive frame. Nevertheless, he's going to build himself up with weights throughout the summer and there's no trouble about finding the time to do so.

I'm unemployed which isn't good but I've been looking for a job for a while. I've got my HSC (Higher School Certificate) with maths, English and business studies as my highest marks. I'm on the look-out for a clerical job but they're not that easy to find."

The supervisor of talent at Port Melbourne is from dry. Tsolakis predicts a big future for current Port mid-fielder John Kostopoulos who also coaches South Melbourne Hellas's under 12s.

John's got unbelievable skill and he easily could play at a much higher level."

There's also more talent in the Tsolakis family. Spiros Tsolakis plays with Kew Park Rangers and no doubt dreams of one day following in his older brother's footsteps.



• Paul Shillabeer

Shillabeer: another champion

By
MICHELANGELO
RUCCI

The South Australian west coast fishing town of Port Lincoln has spawned another champion. Towering giant Dean Lukin astounded the world by becoming the first Australian weightlifter to capture Olympic gold and last week Paul Shillabeer brought further fame to Port Lincoln by winning the SA Rothmans Gold Medal.

As a 10-year-old Shillabeer would sneak across the road at Port Lincoln to play soccer with his older brother Peter, and in 1974, his last year in his home town, he joined the fledgling Port United Club.

The next year he moved to Adelaide and his natural soccer talents were nearly lost to Australian football at Killarney College.

"I played Australian Rules when I was 11 in the under-14 team so I was a bit small," Shillabeer said this week.

"There was a soccer team for my age group so I quit football. I chose soccer only because everyone was so much bigger than me for my age group in football and I enjoyed playing soccer more."

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SOCIAL ACTION, 2 October, 1980 — Page 7

Arnold Langer — club bosses make me sick!

By CRAIG MAC KENZIE

"I'm tired. It's getting me down, all this talk about changing the National League format. I worry about it night and day. Maybe I'll take a break next year."

That's not the Arnold Langer I once knew, the dynamic, hard-hitting force who travelled over the country eagerly awaiting the change of a coming season and planning shrewdly for another Green Gully assault on the championships.

"I don't even bother going to the delegations' meetings anymore. I'm sick of hearing the same old subject over and over and over again — what format should the National League adopt next year?"

There now is a strong reminiscent tone to Langer's words and his thoughts often return to Green Gully's halcyon days in the Victorian State League in 1981, 82 and 83.

"It's so much easier in the State League. You haven't got even half the worries. The way I feel right now, I'm just about on my last legs. It costs at least \$300,000 a year to stay in the National League which means that every club operates in the red."

But Langer isn't advocating a return to state-based Super Leagues. He's not in the business of saying what the National League should or shouldn't do and club presidents who flock to newspapers with their views of what format should be adopted next year have made Langer a bitter man.

"We're killing the league for ourselves, we administrators who won't be forced to sit back. I can't make sense of all this talk. When Green Gully entered the National League at the end of 1981 we were beaten is that Sydney City do nothing for the league because they've only got a couple of supporters. Now those same people who said that are trying to tell me that they want to have Sydney City in their league. What's going on? Can someone please tell me?"

"If I was to approach a coach or a player and ask him to join Green Gully he wouldn't be able to make up his mind because he doesn't know if Green Gully will be in the National League next year or not."

"Before we kick a ball, we listen to some club president slamming the format. A week after the present format was adopted for the 1981 season, some club presidents attacked it. It makes me sick. Why can't people just keep their mouths shut and try and make the best out of what we've got?"

At the club directors' table in the NSL format lie two clubs — Brisbane Lions and Brisbane City. Just as the Oceania region has become the dumping ground for F.I.F.A.'s problem child, Israel, so the Southern Division has become the dumping ground for the two Queensland clubs spurned by almost every other club in the NSL.

"I don't want the Queensland clubs in our league but then what can we do? Just kick them out? That's simply not fair. The NSW clubs are okay in their cushy little league and they don't want the Queensland clubs either. Clubs like South Melbourne Hellas and Brunswick Juventus have short memories. Hellas was lucky not to be kicked out of the National League in 1979 when they finished last and Juventus can thank me and Frank Burin for not being relegated from State League in 1981. Now Hellas and Juventus want to form one league and forget about 10 clubs which have fought hard to get where they are."

Langer, from Birkenhead, is the NSL board of management when Riemers and Wilhelmina lost points for allegedly playing an ineligible player, Brian Sinclair, in 1981. As a result of investigation into the incident, Juventus won points which pushed it clear of the relegation zone. Under threat of legal action from Wilhelmina however, the league was revamped and became a 14-team competition instead of 12.

Most NSL club administrators lament the drop in attendances and are using their suggested format of one 14-team league as a way to bring fans back to games. Langer thinks that they're wasting their time.

"There are no big crowds left in soccer. In the next 10 years we'll probably lose another 25 percent of our ethnic support but there's nothing that can be done to reverse that trend, nothing at all. I've kept statistics on attendances at VFL games and overall they're down by 35 percent from last year. Collingwood, one of the best supported teams in Australian Rules football, has suffered an attendance drop of almost 50 percent this year. All we can hope for in soccer is to keep the fans we have but that's going to really hard."

"There are four major problems in Australian soccer. The first is that it costs too much for the sort of spectacle dished up. I've lost count of the people who have told me that, ordinary fans who once went to games every week and who have been driven away by the \$6 entry fee. The second problem is our lack of comfortable facilities. Third comes our new attitude in competing. We no longer play to win at all cost — now we play not to lose at all cost. And the fourth big problem is that every year, clubs say that the NSL format must be changed which confuses everyone involved in Australian soccer and turns people away from the game."

Is it any wonder that the National League no longer is the pinnacle of every club's aspirations?



• Arnold Langer (left) and Frank Burin

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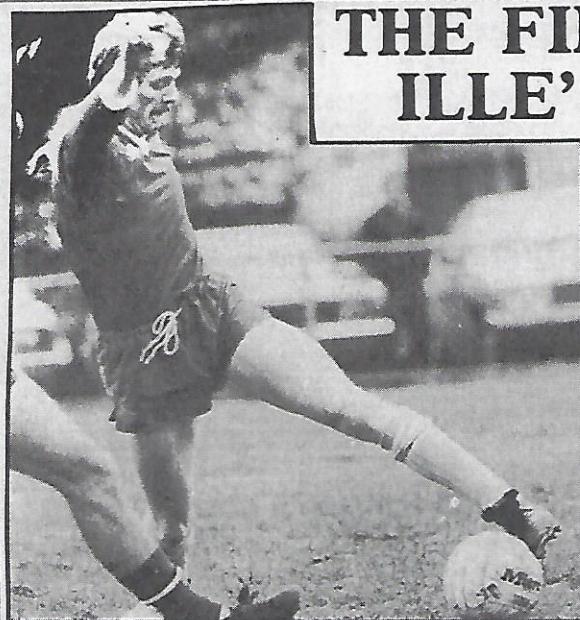
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• Ally Dick — scored the winning goal for Frankston Pines

THE FINAL NAIL IN ILLE'S COFFIN?

FRANKSTON PINES 3
(Thomas 22nd, Dick 90th, 115th). FOOTSCRAY JUST 2
(Lazopoulos 13th, 58th). First game of a double header at Connor Reserve. Attendance: 500 (estimate). Referee: Zoumous 6.

FRANKSTON PINES: Jansson 6 — Watson 6, Nelson 6, Thurlow 6, Ferris 6, (P. Hansen 61st), Cullen 6, Coker 6, Ross 6, (J. Cumming 91st), J. Cullen 6, Thomas 7, Webster 7, Dick 8. Coach: Danny McMinimie.

FOOTSCRAY JUST: Vlajnic 5 — Brkic 4, Barjaktarevic 4, Lujic 5, Karic 8, Lopatic 4 (Nedeljkovski 46th 4) — Tapai 6, Perez-Regoza 5, O'Donnell 5 — Lazopoulos 5, Bell 4. Coach: Rocco Ille.

Those in the know already have started suggesting that this defeat ruled out any chances that Rocco Ille had of retaining the coaching position at Footscray J.U.S.T. regardless of where the club will be playing next year.

Man of the match:
TOM KARIC
(Foot. JUST)

And this revenge will have done very little for the club's claim that it should be included in the National League even if it is reduced to 14 clubs — because of its standing as the strongest Yugoslav backed club.

JUST went into this game with two newcomers in full-backs: Alex Brkic and Igor Lopatic. Goalkeeper Zoran Vlajnic had made one NSL appearance.

They replaced veteran goalkeeper Dennis Boland, Don MacLeod and Kyri Kyrlakoulean who were suspended and Joe Carroll who was omitted.

The side took a 13th minute



Peter Desira



• Rocco Ille

lead when Bill Lazopoulos met a short freekick and headed down past Rick Janssen.

But Pines took advantage of a mistake by Rade Barjaktarevic — moving from fullback to central defensive position for the match — with Ray Thomas intercepting an attempted clearance and hitting the ball home.

A worse mistake at the other end saw the lead for JUST 13 minutes into the second half.

The time Rob Nelson's attempted backpass went straight through Janssen's legs and presented Lazopoulos with the simple task of running in to his home into an empty net.

JUST appeared well in control and Ariele Perez-Regoza had two shots saved while Lazopoulos missed an easy scoring chance.

But Pines had their share of scoring chances especially in a goalmouth melee where both Thomas and Stan Webster could have equalised.

Just when the tie seemed over and done with, Pines conjured up an equaliser in the last minute of normal time with Ally Dick heading in from the right.

JUST had taken the luxury of switching Zdravko Lujic to the sweeper's position early in the game and playing with five at the back.

Pines, with two fresh men, always looked the more likely to score in extra time and it came as no surprise when Dick ran onto a through pass and beat Ally Dick heading in from the right.

“I've been around long enough and it's time that someone else took over. Things have become stagnant and people are taking it for granted that John Branov will take care of whatever crops up,” said Branov.

“Having said that, I have no intentions of turning my back on the club and if people want to use my expertise, I'll be only too willing to help.”

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

Branov to step down

John Branov's seven-year reign as president of Preston Makedonia will end in November. Branov will not be standing for re-election at the club's annual general meeting.

His decision comes as a bodyblow to the club, for it was Branov who introduced administrative stability and a high level of expertise to Makedonia.

During his reign, Makedonia won the Victorian State League championship and established itself as a force in the National League, reaching both the National Cup final and the Southern Division grand final this year.

“I've been around long enough and it's time that someone else took over. Things have become stagnant and people are taking it for granted that John Branov will take care of whatever crops up,” said Branov.

“Having said that, I have no intentions of turning my back on the club and if people want to use my expertise, I'll be only too willing to help.”

MARRAMA PREVENTS AVALANCHE

MELBOURNE-CROATIA 2 (Ijbic 37th, Ward Penalty 62nd)
EAST BRUNSWICK 0. First game of a double header at Olympic Park No. 1.

MELBOURNE-CROATIA: Govic 7, Dankovic 7, Hanafi 7, Campbell 7, Katsamichalis 6 (Curcio 52nd) — Ljubic 8, Gajovic 7, Cristaldo 7, Biskic 7 — Ward 7, Markovic 6 (House half time 7), Coach Dom Kapetanovic.

EAST BRUNSWICK: Marrama 8 — Roccocetti 7, Savio 7, Romano 7, Dimarco 6 — Lepore 7, Bramante 6 (Eyan 67th), Stojcevski 6 (Montesano half time 7), Traficante 7 — Patzakos 6, Baz 7, Coach: Ange Knezes.

Although the end result was never really in doubt, a fourth Division East Brunswick acquitted itself well and made Croatia work hard for its victory.

Pat Marrama had an outstanding game and produced some exceptional saves in what appeared to be checkmate situations.

Generally, East Brunswick looked quite solid in defence but in midfield was unable to hold the ball and its attacks were mainly confined to individual efforts rather than collective teamwork.

Croatia's superior fitness was also an important factor and as the

Man of the match:
PAT MARRAMA
(East Brunswick)



Ken Kontra

game progressed, the tempo set by the N.S.L. side proved to be too much for East Brunswick and only desperate last-line defence by Robert Savio, Paul Romano and inspired goalkeeping by Marrama prevented an avalanche of goals.

Croatia lined up without keeper Jozo Antolovic and Dave McIntosh, the injured Suleiman Curovic was also missing. Jim Campbell deputised as sweeper and did a good job, although admittedly against modest opposition.

In the opening stanza, Croatia was unable to penetrate and while mostly camped in East Brunswick's defensive third, it could not deliver the coup de grace.

In the 37th minute Ante Ijbic finally put Croatia ahead. Gajovic tried a diving header, it was blocked by Ljubic was on the spot to tuck the rebound away from close range.

The second half followed much the same pattern. Croatia was on the attack but was frustrated by a determined defence blocking the way to goal.

Marrama continued his good form and saved shots by Aki Kotsamichalis, Greg House and Josip Biskic.

In the 68th minute Biskic put House through the middle and House outpaced the defence only to be brought down by the advancing goalkeeper, Gary Ward converted the penalty to put Croatia two goals in front.

In the closing minutes, Marrama saved shots from Drago Dankovic and Biskic, and Ward bounced a powerful header off the crossbar but Croatia was unable to add to its tally against the valiant fourth Division outfit.

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

Tomm
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C

• Cummings

GREEN GULLY 3 (Lucchesi 65th
Lewis pen 76th) SPRINGVALE CITY 1
double-header at Green Gully Reserve
about 1000. Referee: Jim

GREEN GULLY: Dohys 7 — Mun
McLelland 7, Hobgen 6 — Cummings
Vassallo 7, Williams 6 — Lewis 5, Lt
Steve Short.

SPRINGVALE CITY: Mur 7 — Ade
Lutzen 5 — Bannon 5, Bentley 6, 1
76th, Fitzpatrick 9 — Nelson 7, 1
(Simon 81st). Coach: Bobby McLach

Tommy Cummings turned on a eye-catching performances that Gully up through the ranks after from Croatia — and had to face Tom Fitzpatrick every time he f

In the 21st minute, for example, C zpatrick the wrong way three times in the left full back sprawled on the grou

the post.

Four minutes later, Cummings wa zpatrick again. The full back hopped the other as he jockeyed for position ex

ned at any time instead, Cummings sl Cleve Lutzen, who turned and fl Perry Mur who saved well.

Cummings was active at both ends before half time, Springvale took its

in a dangerous header by former Jim Nelson, but Cummings was on the clear!

Only seconds into the second half, the perfect scoring opportunity with a to Paul Lewis, but Mur was onto Le block the shot.

Willie Vassallo also had his mom renowned for his scoring feats, he had off the line by Martin Vogel in the 64th off by Keith Adams as he tried moments later, and then had a goal Lewis was caught outside as Vassallo for the winner.

Earlier, Dick had made another breakaway but was tackled in the nick of time by Brkic.

While this will go down as a shock result, Pines are unlikely to be given as much room up front by Preston Makedonia for when they meet in the quarterfinals this weekend.

Green Gully's 1985 Player of the Year McLelland, and runner-up Lucchesi break down Springvale's resolute defence. McLelland tried a long-range flicked it on the wing, and it went wide.

Three minutes later, Jim Williams

firm clearance and rammed his

IT'S A
FOR

Man of the match:
JOE SWEENEY
(. Juventus)

In the 20th minute, Sweeney scored his second following work by Cullen who outwards Suburbs defence squared the ball for Sweeny tap in from two metres.

At this stage, Juvie was str passed together almost at Mike Petersen knocked the Sweeney. He found Fabi cantalupo's shot beat the ball but Andy Esposito saved a fine.

Cullen shot just past the acute angle and a rare Suburbs attack McGuinness headed was t around the post by Keogh.

Just on half time, Juve gathered a brilliant move. Pe knocked the ball the width of the pitch to Incalntalupo on the l squared it for Cullen to net his team's third goal.

With a comfortable lead, John Margaritis decided to Petersen in the second half facing him with Mehmet D vic. Even without the talent tersen, the black and white team's third goal.

In the 62nd minute, Sweeney completed his hat-trick fr Incalntalupo cross and a few minutes later, Darren Tuck cross caused some concern at the other end but Sean Keogh denied McGuinness, saving his shot from 10 metres.

Sweeney hit the upright on-one situation with the go per before PAUL Wade com

ended McGuinness inside and McGuinness scored his consolation goal from the sp

the ball but the bar.

Sweeney hit the upright on-one situation with the go per before PAUL Wade com

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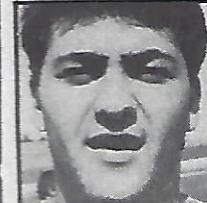
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turns again



Laurie Schwab



• Green Gully's Steve McLelland.

goal No 2, effectively killing off any chance of a Springvale comeback.

Even so, Springvale should have pushed a few more men forward. What good was it to defend a deficit?

The final goal came in the 76th minute. Fitzpatrick fouled Lewis, and Lewis himself converted the spot kick.

Such was Green Gully's superiority that it had 14 scoring attempts to Springvale's five, and also nine corners to three.

Springvale tried man-marking all over the ground, with Vogel on Lucchesi, Luyten on Lewis, Bannon on Williams, Fitzpatrick on Cumming and Bentley and Luca in the middle against Smallman and Vassallo.

Green Gully did all of the playing, Springvale all of the chasing. Nelson however, deserves praise for his bravado and enthusiasm.

Green Gully lined up without Stuart Cannell (suspended), Geoff Campbell and Fab Barichello (injured).

Barichello, voted Green Gully's youth Player of the Year, was to have had his first senior match.

Green Gully spent a lot of time practicing short corners, which became extremely tedious after a while.

Springvale had the first good scoring chance when Dave Hogan failed to cut out a nice through ball from David Luca before it could reach Nelson on the run. Nelson however, shot too early, and across goal, when he could have run right into the penalty area.

Nelson threatened again when the score was still 0-0. He took advantage of an unwise back-pass by a Green Gully defender and ran towards Denys at an acute angle. Denys closed him down, got a hand to the ball low, and finally gathered it with help from McLellan.

Green Gully had to be content with a 2-1 lead at half time.

Culina, formerly of Blacktown City, Sydney Croatia and Melbourne Croatia, is one of those players who invariably catch the eye because of their ability to do the unexpected and the spectacular.

That quality will have won him many referees' votes, but he'll no doubt be hard pushed for the Rothmans Medal by the likes of Stan Webster (Frankston Pines), Alex Livingstone (Croydon), Jim MacLean (Morwell Falcons), Andy Hughes (Box Hill), Joe Palinkas (Fawkner) and Keith Adams (Springvale).

Meanwhile, Ossie Latif notched three goals against St Albans — including one scored with a breathtaking overhead kick — to bring his season's tally to 21. That total comprises the National Cup, four in the National Cup, four in the Buffalo Gold Cup and three in the Ricoh Dockerty Cup.

Charlie Egan of SM-Hellas

scored 22 this year, but with Hellas now out of the Dockerty Cup, Latif is poised to overtake him.

It was Latif's second-half scoring burst that swung the game George Cross's way on Sunday, but Dinamo's ineptness during this period also contributed. Dinamo had looked promising before the break, but in the second half, George Cross forced nine corners to two, and had seven attempts at goal, compared with two by Dinamo.

Overall, the statistics were scoring attempts: 15-9, corners: 10-3.

But it was by no means a good performance by George Cross.

Perhaps the players started taking it easy after Gilder had steered a cross from Mark Lennon in to the net in the 5th minute. Roger Bain headed across goal from a cross by Noel Mitten shortly afterwards, but then Dinamo started to threaten.

Giant Dennis Morovic latched onto a back-pass from a George Cross defender, and was left all alone to run at the goal. Lou Kastner was coming out, the goal was at Morovic's mercy, but he missed.

Lennon and Gilder had

McGuinness shot past the post following a strong run and Incantulpo rattled the woodwork with a curling shot.

In the closing minutes

Zahra's in, Borg's out, Culina's Rothmans?

SUNSHINE-GEORGE

CROSS 4 (Gilder 5th, Latif 49th, 52nd, 87th) ST ALBANS DINAMO 2 (Morovic 30th, Brklicic 43rd). Second game of a double-header at Green Gully Reserve. Crowd: about 1000. Referee: Jim Fokianos B. Cautions: Taylor (GC).

SUNSHINE-GEORGE CROSS: Kastner 6 — James 5, Scarsi 5, Bennett 6, Taylor 5 (Campoli 65th); Mitten 6, Bain 5, Faulkner 5, Lennon 6 (Gilder 7, Latif 8). Coach: John Gardiner.

ST ALBANS DINAMO: M. Grbic 6 — Ramjak 6 — Pozar 5, S. Grbic 5 — Kustura 5 (Rastovic 69th), Bozic 5, Brklicic 7, Culina 6, Dacic 6 — Batimovic 5, Morovic 6. Coach: Tony Vrzina.

Alf Zahra has succeeded John Bord as club president of George Cross and Branko Culina may be headed for a Rothmans Medal after two years of disappointment.

Zahra was elected on Sunday to replace Borg, who is off to Malta to get married.

Scott Frew is vice-president, John Gilson secretary, and Mike Gambin treasurer. The committee meets coach John Gardiner this week to determine whether he will stay on or join Green Gully.

Culina, although hampered by injury, caught the eye with a couple of flashy runs, and especially with a world-class free kick which led to Dinamo's first goal.

Culina finished second in the Victorian Rothmans Medal in 1984 and 1983, but may break the ice on Friday night when the 1985 winner is announced at the Southern Cross Hotel.

With the score at 1-1, St Albans Dinamo was awarded a free kick on the left in the 43rd minute. Culina sent it curving in the most brilliant Brazilian fashion, onto the crossbar. The ball bounced out and was played in again to Zdenko Brklicic who scored at close range to give St Albans a shock 2-1 lead at half time.

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In the closing minutes

Man of the match:

OSSIE LATIF
(Geo. Cross)



Alf Zahra

right back into the middle to mark Morovic. That deprived us of James' attacking play.

Dinamo centre back Gordon Pozar surged forward in a Herculean run past tackles galore, and left Bain in his wake, but Morovic just failed to reach. Postponed final paces. To Pozar's detriment, however, his direct opponent, Latif, was to go on and score a hat-trick.

Culina went on a dashing run, skipping stylishly past a tackle but seeing his low shot saved by Kastner, before he set up Dinamo's second goal for Brklicic two minutes before the break.

But any hope the Croatian fans of St Albans Dinamo had of an upset result were dashed four minutes after the interval when Latif headed home a cross from Mitten.

Three minutes later, after a cross from Lennon from the right, Latif put George Cross ahead with that brilliant overhead shot.

Morovic started limping noticeably shortly after half time, and he was thus much less effective.

Morovic however, threatened the goal again on a bad back-pass from James in the 67th minute. James, to his credit, recovered, chased Morovic and got in a decisive tackle. Ned Batimovic, however, took over and looked like finishing the move, until challenged by Neve Scully.

George Cross made the final score in three minutes from the end. Jeff Faulkner took a corner on the left, Gilder headed goalwards and Latif got the final touch.

THE 1985 RICOH DOCKERTY CUP



• George Cross ace Ossie Latif — his goals sunk St Albans Dinamo.

This week's Cup games

• This weekend's Victorian cup matches with likely winners in capitals:

VICTORIAN LEAGUE CUP QUARTER FINALS

Saturday: Keilor Austria v ALTONA CITY; MELBOURNE v Dandenong City; CLIFTON HILL v Yarraville; ROSANNA v Mooroolbark.

HARRY ARMSTRONG CUP QUARTER FINALS

Saturday: CENTRAL CITY v BOX HILL; Western Suburbs v SPRINGVALE CITY; Doveton v KNOX CITY; Fawkner v Springvale United.

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE CUP QUARTER FINALS

Saturday: CENTRAL CITY v Pascov Vale; Williamstown bye; St Kilda v SEA-FORD UNITED; NUNAWADING UNITED v West Brunswick.

PROVISIONAL RESERVES CUP QUARTER FINALS

Saturday: Mossfiel Rangers v CLARINDA; Mitcham v NORTH SUNSHINE; Monbulk v PASCOV VALE; South Springvale v IVANHOE CITY.

AMATEUR LEAGUE CUP QUARTER FINALS

Sunday: Murrabit v Northern Suburbs; EAST ALTONA v Vermont; EPPING THISTLE v Diggers Rest; CONCORDE v Old Scotch; East Richmond v WAVERLEY UNITED; Yarra Bend v YARRA UNITED; Melbourne University v OAKLEIGH UNITED; Diamond Valley bye.

AMATEUR RESERVES CUP QUARTER FINALS

Sunday: Latrobe University v VERNON; BALWYN CITY v Phillip Institute; Yarra United v DIAMOND VALLEY; EAST ALTONA v Melbourne University; RINGWOOD ROVERS v Macleod; WAVERLEY UNITED v Epping Thistle; Yarra Bend bye; Eagles United bye.

SCORES

VICTORIAN LEAGUE CUP

Altona City 2, Holland Park 1; Clifton Hill 3; Yarraville 1; Dandenong City 2; Geelong 0; Keilor Austria 2; Sunbury 0; Melbourne 2; Waverley City 1; Mooroolbark 2; Broadmeadows 0; Moreland 0; Rosanna 2; Yarraville 2; Essendon Triestina 2 after extra time, Yarraville won 7-6 on penalties.

HARRY ARMSTRONG CUP

Ardeer 1; Doveton 3; Caulfield City 1; St Albans Dinamo 1; Fawkner 4; Geelong 1; Frankston Pines 1; Springvale City 4; Knox 2; Hamlyn Rangers 3; Springvale Utd 2; Lalor Utd 2 after extra time, Springvale Utd won 6-5 on penalties; Western Suburbs 4; Dandenong City 1; Box Hill 7; Albion Park Gcu.

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE CUP

Central City 0; West Meadows 0 after extra time, Central City won 5-4 on penalties; East Geelong 0; Pascov Vale 2; Nunawading 0; Williamstown 1 after extra time; Williamstown won 4-2 on penalties; Nunawading Utd 2; Mulgrave 1 after extra time; Seaford Utd 2; Hawthorn 1 after extra time; St Kilda 3; Geelong Utd 2; West Brunswick 1; Cranbourne 0.

PROVISIONAL RESERVES CUP

Carrum Utd 1; Clarinda 6; Fitzroy City 3; Mitcham Utd 4; Mossfiel Rangers 3; Hawthorn 1; Pascov Vale 2; Central City 1; Seaford Utd 1; Nth Sunshine 2; South Yarra 3; Ivanhoe City 4; Monbulk 2; Dingley 1.



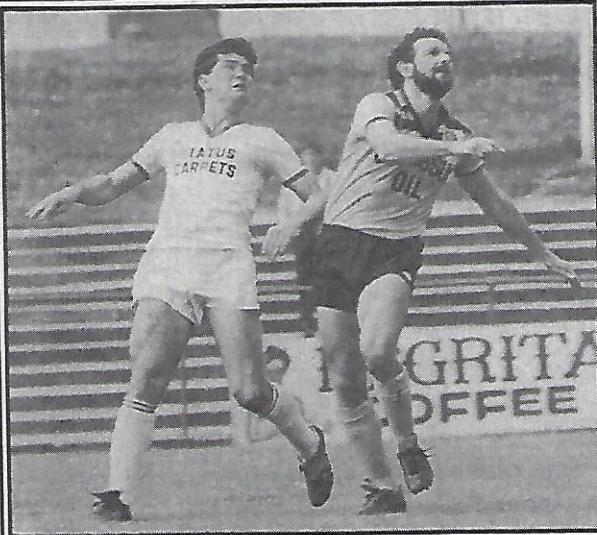
• TOP: Barry Horsfall and, ABOVE (left) John Sanchez, both stars of George Cross in the sixties. They were opposing coaches at the weekend.

Mooroolbark opened its account in the 25th minute when Dave Klepac got onto a through ball, shrugged off Grant Smart's challenge, rounded Tony Carter, then set up Colin Page whose volley beat Rob McRae.

Mooroolbark went forward ahead in the 50th minute when McRae misjudged a bouncing ball, giving Klepac the chance to knock it into the unguarded goal.

Klepac was put to the test three times in as many minutes but was impassable and in the 80th minute the contest was put well out of Broadmeadows' reach.

A Klepac cross from the right was laid back by Mantel into the path of Mooroolbark captain Ray Gurney who made no mistake with his shot and it was 3-0.



George Christopoulos (right) of Heidelberg and Croydon striker Graham French, preparing for an aerial duel. French scored in Croydon's 2-1 win. Pictures: LES SHOR-ROCK.

Thank goodness Hellas is out!

MORWELL FALCONS 2

(Athersych 72nd, Bruns 83rd)

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 1

(Mitsou 65th). Second game of a double header at Middle Park, Sunday. Crowd: about 300. Referee: Bernie Upjohn 6.

MORWELL FALCONS:

Blasby 6 — Bingham 8, Tutil 8, Bruns 9 — Train 7, O'Callaghan 7, MacLean 8, E Cassar 8 — T. van Baar 5 (McGowan H.T. 8) Stirton 7, Athersych 8. Coach: Jimmy Dunne.

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS: Loumets 6 — Russell 7, Blair 7, Anetzakis 6, Postecoglou 7.

Coach: Len McKendry.



Craig Mackenzie

"If our players wanted a holiday, they shouldn't have bothered turning up," said SM-Hellas president Jim Diamataris after his team's loss to Morwell Falcons.

"Having some players missing from the side was no excuse for the performance."

"This competition is almost 100 years old. It is one of the oldest and proudest competitions in the country. Hellas used to have big celebrations when we won it in the past."

"I am bitterly disappointed with the way our players treated this match."

— LAURIE SCHWAB

Man of the match:
EMIL BRUNS
(Morwell Falcon)



• Emil Bruns (left) just has scored Falcons' winning goal against Hellas and takes Ian Stirton for a piggyback ride. At right are Harry Bingshaw (No. 2) and Russell Athersych.

Croydon stakes a strong NSL claim

CROYDON 2 (Ollerton 32nd, French 35th) HEIDELBERG ALLEXANDER 1 (Metaxas 46th). First game of a double header at Middle Park, Sunday. Crowd: about 300. Cautions: Kerr (C), Katsakidis (H). Referee: Brickell 6 (inj. Deak 65th).

CROYDON: Whiteside 7 — Brown 7, Taylor 7, Bates 7, Tensey 7 — Kerr 7, Beech 7, Livingstone 8 — Ollerton 8, French 8, Brogan 7. Coach: Peter Ollerton.

HEIDELBERG ALLEXANDER: Lagoulis 5 — McKie 7, Gabriele 6, Christopoulos 5, Katsakis 7 — Marley 6, Katsakidis 6, Tasiros 6 (Theocharos 85th) — Metaxas 6 (Deligiannis 85th), Selomidis 6, Tsolakis 8. Coach: Brian Garvey.

"Are we good enough for the bloody National League now?"

That's what one Croydon fan yelled to me after this match. Another slammed "Soccer Action" for not giving Croydon much publicity this year which staggered me and will disappoint our contributor John Wallace.

The rhetorical question thrown up by the first fan has

been injured while Scott Patterson, Micki Valentine and Steve Winn are all serving out their suspensions. But that takes little gloss off Croydon's achievement and in the end, the 1985 Victorian State League champion was a most worthy victor.

Croydon was the better football team throughout the first half and deserved its 2-0 lead at the interval.

In the 12th minute, player-coach Peter Ollerton got on to the end of a long ball bouncing just outside the Heidelberg area but struck his first time attempt well wide and five minutes later that little dynamo Peter Tsolakis drove a low free kick inches past the post.

Croydon was worrying the Heidelberg defence in the air and young goalkeeper Nick Lagoulis wasn't attacking high balls confidently. In the 20th minute, Alex Livingstone crossed but Dave Brogan's header was wide and within a minute, Graham French almost scored.

Brogan won the ball just outside the Heidelberg area and slipped it forward to French whose shot was blocked by Ian McKEE.

Steve Marley, playing in midfield, misued with a shot a few minutes later. George Christopoulos had moved up from his sweeper's spot and was offside by a mile. Play was waved on but Billy Whiteside did well to get to the ball before Christopoulos could poke it in.

Alan Kerr was unlucky not to score in the 29th minute as Croydon's aerial threat escalated. A long free kick by Kenny Taylor was headed on by Ollerton and a looping Kerr header at the far post sent the ball sailing just over the bar.

Three minutes later Ollerton scored a gem of a goal. Gary Bates was fouled just outside the Heidelberg area when going for a header. It looked as though Jim Tasey was preparing to drive the free kick but Ollerton suddenly strode up and curled it into the near corner.

Croydon fans barely had settled back into their seats when French prompted them to rise and cheer once more. In the 35th minute, Bates played a long ball over the top as Heidelberg tried to push out and spring the offside position. The ball fell right in front of French who amazingly was unmarked and he made Heidelberg pay for its defensive ineptitude when he used his body well to fend off Christopoulos before slotting the ball past Lagoulis and into the far corner.

A minute into the second half, Heidelberg hit back, heralding a period of intense pressure by the National League outfit. A firm shot from John Metaxas, following Croydon's inability to clear a cross from the left by Chris Katsakidis, made it 2-1 and Heidelberg, with Tsolakis buzzing about, strove hard for the equaliser.

In the 50th minute, McKie played the ball to Steve Tasiros on the right of the Croydon area. Tasiros turned superbly then drove in a firm shot but straight at Whiteside who handled it with ease.

Three minutes later, White-

side didn't find it so easy to

handle a stinging 20-metre drive from Tsolakis. Nevertheless, Whiteside got his fingers to the ball, deflecting it on to the near post.

Ollerton's attempted pass

down the right wing in the 58th minute was blocked and the rebound sent Metaxas scooting clear. Ollerton did not

chase down and was rewarded when Metaxas, instead of con-

tinuing his run toward goal,

stopped, came back inside Ollerton, then shot wild, sending the ball well wide of the far post.

Marley blew two good

chances to level with shots

which went over the bar and

the tide slowly was turning as

Heidelberg threw caution out

the window and pushed for-

ward in drives, leaving itself

open to the break.

Croydon created three great

chances to put Heidelberg out

of its misery, but missed them all.

Livingstone played the ball

to French, wide on the right,

then took off from offside and

sharpened for a return pass. French had other ideas, curling over a far post cross which tempted Lagoulis

to come off his line. Lagoulis

didn't come all the way how-

ever, and suddenly Ollerton

was left with a free header

which must have taken him by

surprise for instead of picking

his spot and powering the ball

home, he headed down in front

of goal and Heidelberg cleared.

In the 87th minute, Heidel-

berg failed to clear a Taylor

free kick. The ball fell tan-

gentially in front of Kerr who

blasted it well over from just

six metres.

A great interchange be-

tween Livingstone and Oller-

ton in the 91st minute sent

Livingstone clear but Lagoulis

smothered sending the ball

out for a corner and when that

was swung across, Kerr

headed over as the final

whistle blew.

Croydon fans barely had

settled back into their seats

when French prompted them to

rise and cheer once more.

In the 93rd minute, Bates

played a long ball over the

top as Heidelberg tried to

push out and spring the off-

side position. The ball

fell to Tasey who drove it

over the bar.

Time and again whenever

Charlie Egan got possession he

had three, four or five touches

too many. That's not the Egan

we see in National League or

National Cup games, the Egan

who should be playing for

Australia. Not that he lost the

ball by being over-elaborate,

but he never took advantage of

playing it early and seemed to

enjoy the little drag backs he

indulged in out wide, giving

Falcons plenty of room to

get players behind the ball in num-

bers.

"If our players wanted a holiday, they shouldn't have bothered turning up," said SM-Hellas president Jim Diamataris after his team's loss to Morwell Falcons.

"Having some players missing from the side was no excuse for the performance."

"This competition is almost 100 years old. It is one of the oldest and proudest competitions in the country. Hellas used to have big celebrations when we won it in the past."

"I am bitterly disappointed with the way our players treated this match."

— LAURIE SCHWAB



• Emil Bruns (left) just has scored Falcons' winning goal against Hellas and takes Ian Stirton for a piggyback ride. At right are Harry Bingshaw (No. 2) and Russell Athersych.

Grimwade best at Waverley

Terry Grimwade won Waverley City's best and fairest award for the second successive year. The presentation of this and other awards was made last Saturday night at Waverley's social club.

Grimwade showed versatility this season by alternating between midfield and the forward line, displaying great stamina wherever he played.

He was prominent in the Second Division this season, and could poll strongly in the league best and fairest award.

The runner-up for the first team best and fairest was defender Kyle Patterson.

In the reserve team award Santos Gabriel was victorious, with Mark Perree and Jim Chassoglou sharing second place.

Gabriel also won the Bob Houghton Memorial Award for the most promising junior in senior ranks.

Special awards made by club coaches went to Tommy Gamers in the first team and Casey Yamaoka in the reserves. Nick Fazzolari was named best clubman.

Waverley City ended the season with a 2-1 loss to Melbourne in the Victorian League Cup. Tony Heery scored twice for Melbourne before Norm Wilcockson pulled one back for Waverley.

Groenewald by eight

Nuna wading City's annual presentation night last Friday saw Jonathan Groenewald a clear winner of the Best and Fairest award with 34 votes, eight clear of leading goalscorer Chris Middelmaat.

Defender Steve Moyle was third in the voting.

Jonathan Groenewald joined Nunawading City at the start of the 1984 season as a full-back from Ferntree Gully, but since has been converted successfully into a midfielder, missing just two games in the past two seasons.

Chris Middelmaat rejoined Nunawading at the start of the season after stints at Doveton and Doncaster Rovers. This season he scored 16 league and two cup goals and was the only ever-present player during 1985.

Other award winners: Most Improved Player — Scott Nelles; President's Trophy — John Morgan; Players' Trophy — winner Rodger Madjer, runner-up Steve Moyle; Reserves Best and Fairest — winner Peter Bailey, runner-up Andy Minton; Youth Team Best and Fairest — Peter Chiaravale; Youth Team Most Improved Player — Mark Howells.



• Croydon winger Alex Livingstone (right) knocks the ball over the outstretched leg of Heidelberg's Steve Marley. Kenny Taylor of Croydon is in the background.

Former stars still going strong

The Keilor Old Boys are living proof that you can't keep a good man down.

Despite receding hairlines and expanding waists, these lingering stars of yesteryear have just won the Victorian Industrial and Amateur League Fourth Division championship by six points, scoring 85 goals in the process.

They also have reached the final of the

Black Douglas Cup, to be played on October 6.

In lead-up rounds, they beat Glenroy Dux 5-2, TAA 4-2, Inter-City 4-2 and Lecco Holdings 2-0.

Top scorers in league and Cup matches have been J. Gauci with 35 and G. Munro with 29.

The club, which plays at Keilor Austria's ground, Harricks Reserve, was formed only this year, by Bobby Pocock

(ex-Sunshine City), Guenter Ganglmaier (ex-Keilor Austria) and Jim Munro (ex-Altona Rovers).

Other well-known players in the team are Will Laing (ex-Sunshine City), Boris Brani (ex-Green Gully) and Pino Dukic (ex-St. Albans).

• The Keilor Old Boys, pictured, are, from left, standing: A. Simeonidis, K. Ferrans, P. Frew, G. Ganglmaier, J. Robinson, B. Brani, P. Dukic, J. Munro, V. Kajovic. Front: W. Laing, J. Gauci, R. Pocock, N. Apas, G. Munro, A. Bulka.

Milenko Rusmir leads Waverley to triumph

Former Footscray J.U.S.T. star Milenko Rusmir, now is sharing his knowledge and experience with the youngsters of Waverley City.

Rusmir's young team has just won the Victorian under 15 Super League, losing only one game all season. The team won the 1984 under 14 Super League as well.

And nine of its players were included in the Eastern regional selection which won the regional championship. They are: Carmelo Calafiori, Mario Cutugno, Joe D'Amico, Nicky Paleologos, Ross Parkin, Willie Ross, Sava Rusmir, Vincent Salvatore and Zoran Stojkovic.

Craig Paton played in the South-Eastern regional team before joining Waverley.

Vincent Salvatore and Mario Cutugno were invited to train with the Victorian State under 15 team and Vincent went on to compete in the national titles in Traralgon. Sava Rusmir was in the Victorian under 13 team last year.

• The team, pictured, is, from left, standing: Noel Parkin (manager), Zoran Stojkovic, Willie Ross, Mario Cutugno, Con Tsapatos, Ross Parkin (captain), Vincent Salvatore, Milenko Rusmir (coach). Front: Sava Rusmir (vice-captain), Simon Heiders, Tim Gardiners, Nicky Paleologos, Joe D'Amico, Neil Fletcher. Absent: Carmelo Calafiori, Craig Paton.



100 for Stuart

Ever since he was a toddler, just old enough to kick a ball with his dad on their back lawn at home in England, Stuart Evans (pictured) has enjoyed soccer.

Now living in Australia, he plays at the age of 11, for Devonport Baptist in the Eastern Suburbs Christian Junior Soccer Association.

During the last soccer season Stuart scored his 100th goal in just 51 matches, an average of almost two goals a game. Since playing for Devonport, Stuart has also won nine hat-trick awards from "Soccer Action".

Stuart is delighted. So is his club, but we're not sure how his opponents feel!

Congratulations, Stuart.



• The Salesian College team that won the Victorian Secondary Schools championship by beating Regional Catholic College of St Albans 3-1 on penalties at Middle Park, from left, back row: S. Waldhauer, F. Palleschi, M. Ioakimidis, A. Gatto, M. Alexandropoulos, J. Delosa, F. Salvatore, C. Perna, Coach: C. Egan. Front: R. Palleschi, F. Pansino, V. Salvatore, T. Palleschi, M. Kourelis, F. Mazzagatti, J. D'Amico, G. Morina.



• Melbourne Croati's under 13s proudly display the name of their sponsor. The boys, who finished second in their Super League, are, from left, rear: Tom Juricic, Stan Marusic, Dean Fak, Damien Munuiana, Darko Trupkovic, John Botica, Mate Bacack (manager). Front: Paul Scerri (coach), Jakov Gavran (kneeling), Steve Jerbic, Walter Sare, Ante Lijovic, Romeo Grgic, Joe Bacak (capt), George Tadic, Mark Silic (kneeling).



UNDER 16 CONTEST AT RINGWOOD

Fixtures for the under 16 competition being run by Ringwood Wiltelmmina at Jubilee Park:

SATURDAY September 28
11 am — Mitcham United v Mooroolbark

1 pm — Waverley City v Springvale

3 pm — Doncaster Rovers v Ringwood

SUNDAY September 29:

11 am — Burwood United v Springvale United

1 pm — Waverley City v Box Hill

3 pm — Mitcham United v Ringwood City

SATURDAY October 5 — Semi-Finals,

12.30 pm — Runners-up Group I v

Winners Group II.

3 pm — Runners-up Group II v Winners Group I.

SUNDAY October 6 — Finals.

12.30 pm — Play-off for third place between the two losing teams of the semi-finals.

3 pm — Main final — between the two winners of the semi-finals.

5 PM — PRESENTATIONS

JLL Medibank Private SCOREBOARD

VICTORIA

DIVISION TWO

Riogrande 3 D St. Marks 3

St. Oakleigh 15 8 3 63 38 38

St. Moriallo 15 5 5 46 29 37

Nth Geelong 13 7 6 37 19 32

Waverley 13 6 7 44 31 32

Sandringham 10 5 11 35 25 25

Altona City 10 6 11 43 42 24

Royal Rich 8 6 12 35 47 22

St. Kilda 10 6 12 35 47 22

Dandenong C 6 9 11 32 49 21

Hanly 6 9 11 32 49 21

Ringwood U 8 6 12 48 21 40

Bell Park 4 11 11 34 45 19

Ceburg 10 6 11 34 45 19

Dingley 1 Geelong Uni 1

Nth Sunshine 6 South Yarra 0

W D L F A P I

Geelong Utd 10 8 3 55 29 26

Seaford Utd 10 8 3 55 29 26

Bewick 11 9 4 56 33 31

Ivanhoe 10 10 4 31 29 20

Nth Sunshine 8 6 7 44 36 26

St. Kilda 10 6 12 48 21 40

Manly Utd 11 1 12 47 53 23

Uni of Melb 8 7 9 34 42 22

Monash Uni 6 6 12 47 52 18

Malton 5 8 11 23 41 18

South Yarra 2 7 15 24 53 11

Altona Utd 2 7 15 24 53 11

BUFFALO AMATEUR LEAGUE

DIVISION TWO

Callington 3 Dunes 3

Ringwood Rovers 3 Yarra United 5, 2-

1, Nth Melbourne 1 Concord 2, 1-3,

Phillip Inst 9 R.M.L.T. 0, 3-2, Birrins 3

v Callington 2

DIVISION THREE

Hawthorn Utd 0 Denebys Park 6, 6-5,

RAAF Academy 6 Yarra Bend 0, East

Altona 2 Denebys Hill 1, 4-4

DIVISION THREE

Callington 3 Dunes 2, 1-5

Ringwood 3 Yarra United 5, 2-

1, Nth Melbourne 1 Concord 2, 1-3,

Phillip Inst 9 R.M.L.T. 0, 3-2, Birrins 3

v Callington 2

DIVISION FOUR

Waverley United 17 3 2 66 27 37

Ascot St Marks 5 1 57 18 36

Eagles United 12 5 5 44 37 29

Vermont 12 4 5 69 44 28

Balwyn Utd 12 4 5 69 44 28

Balwyn City 8 2 30 34 19

Eppling Thistle 7 5 10 32 34 19

Maccabi 8 2 32 30 40 35

Endeavour Hills 5 6 11 37 55 15

Melbourne Uni 5 6 11 37 55 15

Latrobe Uni 5 4 12 30 52 14

Old Scotch 5 6 11 37 55 13

DIVISION ONE

RESERVES

Scorri — Yugoslavia — Dinkic (68th min), Paesani (70th), East Germany Dell (33rd), Halista (45th), Regis (88th). Attendance: 11,000.

Eagles Utd T2 2 8 59 44 26

Waverley Utd 10 3 8 39 42 23

Vermont 8 4 9 41 38 12

Geelong Utd 10 3 8 39 42 23

Endeavour Hills 7 1 13 52 64 18

Old Scotch 7 1 13 38 55 14

Northern Suburbs 5 4 13 48 75 14

DIVISION TWO

RESERVES

Brinltons 16 3 7 15 16 35

Collingwood City 14 2 4 69 25 28

Phillip Inst 11 6 3 60 25 28

Eastwood Valley 11 6 3 60 25 28

Duncraig 6 4 5 62 32 26

Diggers Rest 8 2 10 44 47 18

Ringwood Utd 7 2 8 43 44 18

Yanni United 7 2 11 42 52 16

Nth Melbourne 7 2 11 42 52 16

St. Kilda 7 2 11 42 52 16

Waverley 7 2 11 42 52 16

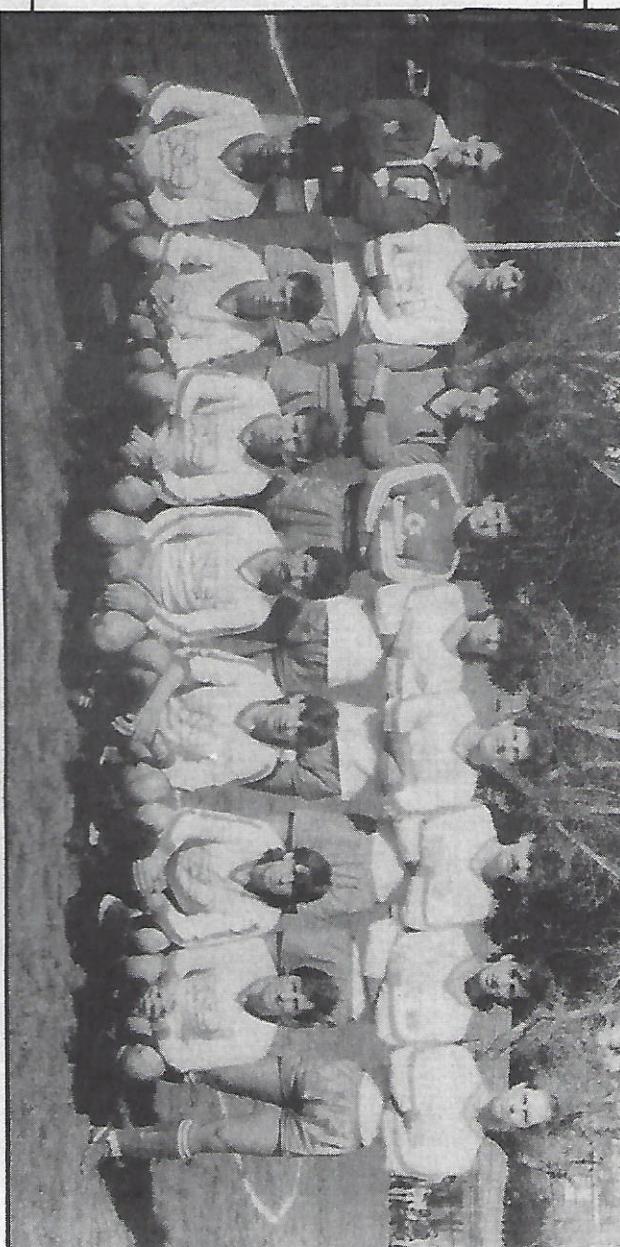
Waverley Utd 7 2 11 42 52 16

Clarinda

Fourth Division
here we come!

For Clarinda, 1985 has been a year of major achievement.
As champion of Victoria's Provisional League Division One
the club won the first ever title.

• Back row: S. Seizes, B. Stratidakis, M. Lakiotis, dis. C. Kakouris, P. Constantindou, J. Godessi (captain), N. Lakiotis, A. Charalambous, P. Apostolopoulos. Front row: M. Charalambous, T. Koutsos, C. Holmes, A. Gatzonis (assistant coach), D. Nitsikas, J. Ougrini, B. Gatzonis (coach), Missing: B. Fergadiotis, C. Kozaris, I. Grigas, A. Apostolopoulos.



MEET THE MEN WHO WON THE TITLE

BILL GATZONIS: Coach. Winner of the club's best and fairest award over the last three years. Recruited from Hawthorn.

TONY GATZONIS: Assistant Coach. Recruited from Hawthorn.

MICHAEL IOAKIMIDIS: From the junior team. Goalkeeper who has represented Australia at under 15 level and has represented Victoria as a junior.

BILL FERGADIOTIS: Defender, recruited from Frankston City. He has been injured for most of the year but looking forward to playing next year.

NICK LAKIOTIS: Defender, from South Oakleigh.

PETER CONSTANDINO: Defender, recruited from Port Melbourne.

PETER APOSTOLOPOULOS: Defender from the juniors.

JOHN GODESSI: Team captain, recruited from Mordialloc and joint winner of Best Clubman award for 1985.

CLIVE HOLMES: Attacking mid-fielder, from Doveton.

STEVE SEIZIS: Defender, from the juniors. He has been missing due to injury for most of the year.

JIMMY OUGRINI: Midfielder with lots of flair. Joined from Western Suburbs.

DINO NITSIKAS: Midfielder, from the juniors. Winner of Best Clubman and Most Improved Player awards for 1985.

ACHILLES CHARALAMBOU: Courageous mid-fielder, from the Juniors.

CONKOZIARIS: Forward, from the Juniors.

ARTHUR APOSTOLOPOULOS: Forward from the Juniors and Reserves Best and Fairest for 1985.

Clarinda was able to develop a junior team at under 12 level in 1976. From this team five players have risen to represent the club at senior level.

In 1979, Clarinda finished second and was able to climb out of District League Division Four into Division Three. The 1980 season saw the appointment of the first non-playing coach, John Burford, and once more Clarinda finished runner-up and was promoted into Division Two.

In August, 1981, Clarinda officially opened its current Ground, Grange Reserve, in Osborne Avenue, Clayton South which was developed by the assistance of the City of Oakleigh which spent over \$200,000 on the ground and facilities. Current proposals with the council for future development of Grange Reserve are designed to bring the ground up to State League standard by the end of the 1987 season.

In 1982 with Takis Mandarakis, the former South Melbourne Hellas star, as coach, Clarinda lost its last game to lose out in the promotion race to Yarraville and Bulleen. However, the disappointment of the season was eased when the

team captain Simon Topalidis won the Provisional League Best and Fairest award.

The tradition of winning league best and fairest awards was continued in 1983 by Bill Gatzonis. September of that year Bill Gatzonis was appointed coach and, with his inspiration, Clarinda won the Provisional League Cup, beating Springvale United 3-2 in the final after extra time. Fresh from this success, Clarinda went on to win the Hellenic Cup in December, beating State League team North-East 2-0 in the final.

With the restructuring of the Victorian Leagues in 1984, Clarinda was promoted into Provisional League Division One and in a tight final was unfortunate to finish third on Goal difference — one point behind champion Boronia and equal on points with runner-up Bal-

lara.

Determined that 1985 was to be its championship year, Clarinda finished a clear winner of its division. The most pleasing aspect of the year was the important role played by nine players who had come up from junior ranks.

Clarinda now looks forward to the 1986 season with relish, playing in the Victorian Leagues for the first time with the knowledge of having good junior talent, strong committee, the support of the local business community and its ever faithful supporters.

Clarinda hopes to crown its success in the Provisional League with a championship in the Fourth Division of the Victorian Leagues.

G. BOUROZIKAS, Solicitor

384 Haughton Rd, Clayton

Tel. 544 4466

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FORZA JUVE!



• Melita Eagles, First Grade Grand Final winners in NSW. Back row: John Davies, Don Allan, Andrew Callanan, Greg McCoy, Wayne Dalton, Billy Griffiths, Ken Wilson, Barry Walker, coach Micky Jones, Peter Hensman. Front Anthony Avelino, Dragan Pupovac, Lenny Vial, Jay O'Rourke, Derek Laing, Ray Garrugia and fan. Picture: ALEX VESIC.

Jones bows out on a high note

MELITA EAGLES 4 (Walker 27th, 62nd, Davies 70th, Hensman 82nd) **FAIRY MEADOW** 0. First Grade Grand Final at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 2530. Referee: Peter Rampley 10.

MELITA EAGLES: Pupovac 8 — Lang 7, McCoy 7, Wilson 7, Dalton 1 — Davies 8, Farrugia 8, Vial 7. **Hensman** 8 (Callanan 85th), Walker 8, Griffiths 8. **Coach**: Mick Jones.

FAIRY MEADOW: Young 6 — White 6, Berringer 6, Jones 5, Morlano 5 — Giraldi 8, Montecchi 5 (Peil 69th), Mowbray 7 (Baker 53rd 5), Richardson 7 — Chiby 5, Fontana 7. **Coach**: John Fleming.

Micky Jones celebrated his retirement from coaching in the best way possible with this Grand Final win. To top it off Melita Eagles won the Grand Final in the first time in history!

Such much for all the criticism levelled at the coach and his players during the year, for Melita did its supporters proud in the fourth oil series.

From the fourth spot on the ladder and seemingly out of contention, Melita started home to eliminate Sutherland, then demolishing Canterbury 4-1 before whipping Meadow 4-0. And the star of the show was Barry Walker.

This tall, skilful Melita striker was an early leader in the goalscoring charts in State league with five goals — after the first five rounds. Needless to say Melita was on top of the table and looking like a champion side. Then came an

injury which put both Walker and Melita out of business.

Walker came back in the last five rounds to score three goals and steady his side then chimed in with play-off goals, two against Sutherland then two against Canterbury, with a further two in the Grand Final against Canterbury.

Six goals in three matches with the nine he scored during the league season makes Walker easily the top scorer in the State League in 1985.

His goals against Fairy Meadow were not as brilliant as some we have seen but as an example of this man's ability to convert simple chances into goals, they were extraordinary.

Ray Farrugia took a corner kick from the left hand side, playing the ball to the right, McCoy and Kenny Wilson tried to connect and Warwick Young missed it allowing McCoy to head towards the near post. Micky White only managed to clear the ball to the feet of Walker who slammed it back into the net.

After an hour, with Fairy Meadow battling hard to get an equaliser, a long clearance from Melita's defence was contested by Walker and Jones. At the last moment Walker got off from the challenge leaving Jones to fall forward as the ball bounded towards Young's goal. Walker simply walked around Jones to face Young and score.

A very clever move indeed! In Australian soccer, which is

deteriorating into a horribly physical game, it is refreshing to see a man like Walker. He seems to run at half pace all the time but his footwork more than makes up for a seeming lack of speed. His running off the ball is extremely good while his heading is a delight.

Meadow refused to give in and fought hard.

The side from the South Coast attacked relentlessly during the second period and paid for it. It rattled the crossbar twice and should have had at least one or maybe two goals but in the meantime it was hit on the break and conceded another two goals.

Billy Griffiths, one of Melita's best players, worked hard to steal possession from Micky White then strolled through some poor tackles before cutting back his pass for Johnny Davies to score with a delightful 20 metre drive to make it 3-0.

With minutes ticking away, Peter Hensman outsped some poor defence to lob the keeper and make it 4-0. Hensman dropped to his knees in prayer, for he could have made this game a nightmare for Meadow.

He was short by an inch in the fifth minute to get off and of a brilliant header by Walker. Midway through the first half and following yet another cross by Griffiths the ball eluded Young to find Hensman but his header was painfully misdirected, finishing well over the bar.

With eight minutes left, Ricky Baumgartner attempted to score his father by hitting the ball from outside the area but it appeared to go straight to the keeper. Anthony Avelino dropped the ball and Dudley Fox, following up, scooped it into the net.

Only two minutes later, Manly celebrated against Fox's superb shot found the top corner of the net and Avelino was helpless.

In the 50th, Lenny Vial beat the Meadow defence then missed only to see his shot go to the far post and hit the keeper. Hensman to shoot. But Hensman decided to place his shot and it went straight into the arms of the fallen Young!

A few moments later Hensman was through again to face Young but shot straight at the keeper.

For Meadow the game was in the balance until the 53rd minute. It was 1-0 down and surging forward. Then came the loss of Phil Mowbray through injury. He was carried off the Park and replaced by Baker.

Giraldi and Fontana hit the woodwork in the ensuing moments but little if no luck went Meadow's way as it fought against all odds.

**Man of the match:
BARRY WALKER
(Melita Eagles)**

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MELLIER WINS IT

SUTHERLAND 1 (Mellier 72nd) **MANLY WARRINGAH** 0. Third Grade Grand Final at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 2,350.

SUTHERLAND: Mircic — Pischke, Ashton, Hawker, Ensor — Ward, Tever (Giovenco 53rd), Christodolou (Weiner 77th) — Leney, Hill, Mellier.

MANLY: Tingle — Reeve, Melville, Butler, Smith — Green, Cimarosti (Gonzales 53rd), England — Annan, Loughran, Gillespie.

Andre Mellier's goal separated the sides at the end of a very entertaining game dominated by strong defence.

Sutherland, for all its failures in top grade, and in the reserves, yet again goes home with a trophy. Mind you, the light blues have been accustomed to doing that in the past nine years.

Sea Eagles riding high

MANLY WARRINGAH 2 (Fox 80th, 82nd) **MELITA EAGLES** 0. Second Grade Grand Final at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 1530. Referee: Nick Asarioti 7.

MANLY WARRINGAH: Conradi — Verduin, Russell, Juergens, Sestanovich — Woodward, Jebrail, Vale — Baumgartner, Davison, Fox.

MELITA EAGLES: Avelino — Smith, Stead, Doyle, Furness — Gregson, Tooma, Settles — Woodward, Williams, Dusilice.

Manly's hopes at the start of the season rested on the success of its First Grade side. However, while that side floundered, Manly's Second and Third Grade teams reached the Grand Final.

Manly's reserves were given little hope against an unbeaten Melita side and for most of the game it looked as if the Sea Eagles would go home empty handed, but Melita muffed chances then conceded two late goals to say goodbye to its hopes.

But all credit to this Manly team.

Last year the side was



• Manly, winner of the Second Grade Grand Final. Back row: G Barker, R. Baumgartner, N. Conradi, C. Woodward, J. Alaaich (coach), R. Davison, K. Russell, D. Fox. Front

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